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**Aruba TODAY**

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, April 17, 2014

# U.S. Readies Tougher Sanctions For Russia

Ukrainian soldiers move supplies at a mustering point in a field near Iziurm, Ukraine, some 40 kilometers north of Slovyansk. (Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

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# U.S. readies tougher sanctions for Russia

**JULIE PACE**

**LARA JAKES**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration is preparing to ratchet up sanctions on Russia and boost assistance for the Ukrainian military in the coming days, U.S. officials said Wednesday, as Ukraine struggles to contain a pro-Russian uprising in its eastern cities. Officials said they had no plans to levy new sanctions ahead of Thursday's talks in Geneva between the U.S., Russia, Ukraine and the European Union. But with low expectations for a breakthrough in those meetings, officials already have prepared targets for sanctions that include wealthy individuals close to Russian

President Vladimir Putin and the entities they run.

"Each time Russia takes these kinds of steps that are designed to destabilize Ukraine and violate their sovereignty, there are going to be consequences," President Barack Obama said in an interview with CBS News. "Mr. Putin's decisions aren't just bad for Ukraine. Over the long-term, they're going to be bad for Russia."

The administration also was working on a package of non-lethal assistance for Ukraine's military. The assistance, which was expected to be finalized this week, could include medical supplies and clothing for Ukraine's military, but was expected to stop short of providing body armor and



A combat vehicle with pro-Russian gunman on top runs through downtown Slovyansk on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. The troops on those vehicles wore green camouflage uniforms, had automatic weapons and grenade launchers and at least one had the St. George ribbon attached to his uniform, which has become a symbol of the pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

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Ukraine has asked for military assistance from the U.S., a request that was believed to include lethal aid like weapons and ammunition. But Obama administration officials said they were not actively considering supplying Ukraine with lethal assistance, a step they said could be viewed as an escalatory act by the U.S. in the midst of an already tense situation.

"We don't want to see more escalation. What we want is de-escalation," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said. "At the same time we're constantly reviewing Ukrainian requests for assistance and determining what's most appropriate to provide." Administration critics have been pressing Obama to arm the Ukrainian military in order to bolster its efforts to reassert control of its eastern region from pro-Russian insurgents who have seized numerous government facilities.

Sen. John McCain said over the weekend that the least the U.S. could do was "give them some light weapons with which to defend themselves."

U.S. assistance to Ukraine's military so far has been limited to about 300,000 ready-

to-eat meals, which were shipped in late March. The U.S. also has authorized a \$1 billion loan guarantee for Ukraine's fledgling government.

Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Geneva on Wednesday for the high-stakes diplomatic meetings with Russia, Ukraine and the EU.

A senior State Department official suggested Kiev was preparing to take a more appeasing approach with Moscow during the talks, with Ukrainian diplomats preparing to brief Russia on efforts to give more autonomy to regions, protect Russian-speaking minorities and allow widespread inclusion of candidates in upcoming presidential elections. Doing so would mark a striking urgency to avoid confrontation just as Kiev struggles to maintain its sovereignty against Russian troops on its borders and pro-Russian separatists fueling unrest in eastern Ukraine.

In addition to seeking a way to de-escalate tensions between Kiev and Moscow, the Geneva meeting also was expected to touch on the West's efforts to help stabilize Ukraine's economy with an anticipated loan by the International Monetary Fund. □



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# Former NYC mayor plans challenge to pro-gun lobby

**JENNIFER PELTZ**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Wednesday he will spend \$50 million this year on new group that will mix campaign contributions with field operations aimed at pulling gun-control supporters to the polls in the November midterm elections and beyond. His new organization, Everytown for Gun Safety, plans to mobilize voters to back candidates and ballot measures supporting such causes as enhanc-

ing background checks for gun buyers, according to a news release. It will focus particularly on women voters, especially mothers. "This new organization will bring more people into the fight against gun violence, which affects every town in America," Bloomberg said in a statement. Everytown aims to sign up one million new supporters this year, said the group's president, John Feinblatt. America's most powerful pro-gun lobby group, the National Rifle Association, said it would respond to the announcement at its

annual meeting next week in Indianapolis. Gun control is a fiercely divisive issue in the United States, where the right to bear arms is enshrined in the Constitution, alongside such basic rights as free speech and freedom of religion. President Barack Obama's plan for broader background checks for gun purchases, along with proposals for a ban on military-style assault rifles and limits on ammunition capacity, failed last year in Congress. Pro-gun control politicians and activists had hoped



In this photo, then New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks at a news conference in New York. The former mayor plans to spend \$50 million this year setting up a new group that will mix campaign contributions with field operations aimed at pulling gun-control supporters to the polls.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

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the time was right for such measures in the wake of the massacre of 20 children and six educators at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. But most Republicans lawmakers, and many Democrats from states with strong pro-gun sentiments, remain opposed to stricter firearms laws. "Twelve months later, Congress still hasn't done anything," Feinblatt said. An Associated Press-GfK poll in December found 52 percent of Americans favored stricter gun laws, 31 percent wanted them left as they are and 15 percent said they should be loosened. Bloomberg, whose last term as New York City mayor ended in January, said gun control advocates need to learn from the tactics of the NRA and punish politicians who fail to support their agenda, including Democrats. The group also plans to issue candidate ques-

tionnaires and scorecards. Bloomberg has used a combination of his wealth and his stature as the 12-year mayor of the nation's biggest city to become one of the country's most formidable gun control activist. He made nearly \$14 million in federal campaign contributions for gun-control candidates in the 2012 elections. Events kicking off Everytown's creation were scheduled in towns across the United States, including Tucson, Arizona, and Denver, Colorado, the sites of high-profile shootings in recent years. "Moms need to know that when they drop their kids off at school, they're learning math and science, not how to duck and cover from gunfire," Shannon Watts, who founded the pro-gun control group Moms Demand Action a day after the Newtown shooting, said in a statement. □



# Man charged with marathon hoax held on high bail



Kevin Edson is arraigned in Boston Municipal Court, Wednesday, April 16 2014, in Boston. Edson was arrested Tuesday near the Boston Marathon finish line carrying a backpack containing a rice cooker on the anniversary of the bombings. Edson was sent to a state psychiatric facility for an evaluation Wednesday following his initial court appearance and ordered held on \$100,000 bail. He is due back in court on May 7.

(AP Photo/Wendy Maeda)

**PAIGE SUTHERLAND**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Police stepped up patrols near the Boston Marathon finish line after a masked man walked in the street with a rice cooker in his backpack only hours after the city marked the anniversary of last year's deadly bombing.

Kevin "Kayvon" Edson, 25,

was sent to Bridgewater State Hospital and ordered held on \$100,000 bail at an appearance in court on charges of threatening battery, possession of a hoax explosive device, threats to commit a crime, disturbing the peace, disturbing a public assembly and disorderly conduct. His next court date was scheduled for May 7.

Edson's arrest occurred hours after ceremonies to mark last year's Boston Marathon bombings, in which two pressure cooker bombs hidden in backpacks exploded, killing three people near the finish line and injuring more than 260 others.

Police expressed confidence in heightened security measures for Monday's marathon event while acknowledging the challenge of protecting an estimated 1 million spectators and 36,000 runners across 26.2 miles (42.16 kilometers) and eight Massachusetts communities.

Security plans include thousands of uniformed police, hundreds of plain-clothes officers and about 100 strategically positioned video cameras that will monitor the crowds. Police also strongly discouraged spectators from bringing backpacks.

Edson was stopped late Tuesday after passers-by told an officer they saw him yelling, walking barefoot down the middle of a street, veiled in black, in pouring rain. His face was painted yellow and blue, the traditional colors of the marathon, police said. The street was open to pedestrians at the time, and police said his presence was not a security breach.

The backpack was destroyed. Police determined that the bag's contents

were not explosive.

According to a police report read aloud in court, after Edson was read his rights, he told an officer: "I knew what I was doing, it was conceived in my head. It's symbolism, come on. The performance got the best of me."

In a statement, his family said, "Our family is so sorry and emotionally overwhelmed by the events at the finish line of the Boston Marathon yesterday. To have this happen on the one-year anniversary of such a horrific crime is unfathomable."

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# Yellen: Fed stimulus still needed for job market

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday that the U.S. job market still needs help from the Fed and that the central bank must remain intent on adjusting its policy to respond to unforeseen challenges.

In her first major speech on Fed policy, Yellen sought to explain the Fed's shifting guidance on its interest-rate policy, which at times has confused or jarred investors. She said the Fed's policies "must respond to significant unexpected twist and turns the economy may make."

"Thus far in the recovery and to this day, there is little question that the economy has remained far from maximum employment," Yellen told an audience at the Economic Club of New York.

She said the Fed's forecast

for moderate growth has changed little since last fall despite the severe winter. Fed officials still see only a

gradual return to full employment over the next two to three years, Yellen said. Yellen said the Fed contin-

to confirm investors' view that the new Fed chair is firmly in the camp of "doves"—officials who are

Yellen said, referring to the Fed's goal of inflation rising at 2 percent a year. "Overshooting that goal,



**Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen, center, speaks during a luncheon at the Economic Club of New York on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Yellen said Wednesday that the U.S. job market still needs help from the Fed and that the central bank must remain intent on adjusting its policy to respond to unforeseen challenges.**

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Sunday, April 20th, 2014

## Easter Dinner Menu

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ues to face challenges in its efforts to invigorate the economy's recovery from the Great Recession. It's been reducing its bond purchases, which have been intended to keep loan rates low to stimulate spending and growth. But the Fed has kept its benchmark short-term rate at a record low near zero since late 2008.

Yellen's speech Wednesday and her answers to questions afterward served

more concerned about high unemployment than about the threat of future high inflation.

But in response to a question from Harvard economist Martin Feldstein, Yellen insisted that the central bank would respond quickly to rising inflation should the need arise.

"As the recovery proceeds, it is obvious we will need to (at some point) tighten monetary policy to avoid overshooting our target,"

we have learned in past episodes and past recoveries, can be very costly to reverse."

But Yellen stressed that inflation is now rising only about 1 percent a year. She said a bigger fear is that prices are rising too slowly and that if the economy suffered an unexpected shock, it could succumb to deflation — a period, as in the past two decades in Japan, when falling prices can slow economic growth.

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## March home building up after frigid winter

PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home construction rose moderately in March as builders resumed work at the end of a frigid winter. But applications for building permits slid, clouding the outlook for future construction.

Builders started work on 946,000 homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in March, up 2.8 percent from 920,000 in February, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Construction of single-family homes rose 6 percent, more than offsetting a 3.1 percent drop in the construction of apartments, condominiums and town houses.

As the weather moderated, construction rose 30.7 percent in the Northeast and jumped 65.5 percent in the Midwest. But it fell 9.1 percent in the South and 4.5 percent in the West. Applications for permits, a gauge of future activity, fell 2.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 990,000.

"The outcome is less dynamic than anticipated," Annalisa Piazza, an economist at Newedge Strategy, said in a research report.

## US Financial Front: Factory output extended solid gains in March

JOSH BOAK  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. factory output rose further last month, extending strong growth from Febru-

over the past 12 months. Higher factory output is a sign of greater demand by businesses and consumers. The gains over the past two months point to a rebound

by the bleakest of winters," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "There is scope for production to rise rapidly in the coming months, too."

Other recent manufacturing indicators have been mixed.

They have signaled greater demand heading into spring and summer but not increased hiring.

Manufacturers expanded at a slightly faster pace in March than in February, according to an index released this month by the Institute for Supply Management, a group of purchasing managers. The ISM manufacturing index rose to 53.7 from 53.2 in February. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

Orders for factories increased, but manufacturers hired at their slowest pace in nine months, according to the index.

The Labor Department's employment report found that factories shed 1,000 jobs in March. The losses came primarily from producers of processed food, clothing, textiles and paper products.

Those declines were partly offset by gains for manufacturers of machinery, furniture and primary metals.



Workers man the Motorola smartphone plant in Fort Worth, Texas. The Federal Reserve reported positive data on US industrial production for March on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

ary after harsh weather had caused production to tumble in January. Manufacturers produced more furniture, clothing, chemicals and aerospace products.

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that factory production rose 0.5 percent in March after a revised 1.4 percent surge in February. Manufacturing output has climbed a solid 2.8 percent

after a winter slowdown in January and December stalled growth across the economy.

"The U.S. economy is now showing its true colors after the weakness triggered

Overall industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, rose 0.7 percent in March. In February, industrial production had expanded 1.2 percent.

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# Unfinished business complicates Clinton's diplomatic legacy

**MARK LANDLER**

**AMY CHOZICK**

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - It was a simple question to someone accustomed to much tougher ones: What was her proudest achievement as secretary of state? But for a moment, Hillary Rodham Clinton, appearing recently before a friendly audience at a women's forum in Manhattan, seemed flustered.

Clinton played an energetic role in virtually every foreign policy issue of President Barack Obama's first term, advocating generally hawkish views internally while using her celebrity to try to restore America's global standing after the hit it took during the George W. Bush administration.

But her halting answer suggests a problem that Clinton could confront as she recounts her record in Obama's Cabinet before a possible run for president in 2016: Much of what she labored over so conscientiously is either unfinished business or has gone awry in his second term.

From Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the grinding civil war in Syria to the latest impasse in the Middle East peace process, the turbulent world has frustrated Obama, and is now defying Clinton's attempts to articulate a tangible diplomatic legacy.

"I really see my role as secretary, and, in fact, lead-

ership in general in a democracy, as a relay race," Clinton finally said at the Women in the World meeting, promising to offer specific examples in a memoir she is writing that is scheduled to be released in June. "I mean, you run the best race you can run, you

striking a delicate balance when discussing a job that would be a critical credential in a presidential race. On the one hand, she wants credit for the parts of Obama's foreign policy that have worked, like the pressure campaign against Iran over its nuclear pro-

She recently likened President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea to actions by Hitler in the 1930s, and posted on Twitter a photograph of herself with members of Pussy Riot, the protest group that is Putin's nemesis.

Clinton's Republican oppo-

deadly attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.

While Republicans are likely to make her part of a broad critique of the Obama administration's approach to national security, Clinton's hawkish views could also be a problem in ensuring the support of liberals in her own party, who are weary of foreign entanglements. In one sense, though, the cascade of foreign crises that now bedevil Obama could play to Clinton's advantage.

By presenting herself in her book and in any possible campaign as the toughest voice in the room during the great debates over war and peace, she could set herself apart from a president whose critics charge has forsworn America's leadership role in the world. Clinton has scrupulously avoided publicly criticizing Obama; White House aides said he still called her for advice.

But in recent interviews, current and former administration officials, foreign diplomats, friends and outside analysts described Clinton as almost always the advocate of the most aggressive actions considered by Obama's national security team - and not just in well-documented cases, like the debate over how many additional U.S. troops to send to Afghanistan or the NATO airstrikes in Libya. □



**From left: Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal at a U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council forum at the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 31, 2012. Clinton may face a dilemma as she recounts her record before a possible White House bid: Much of her work as secretary of state is either unfinished or went awry.**

(Brendan Smialowski/Pool via The New York Times)

hand off the baton."

The relay metaphor has become a recurring theme for Clinton during this year of speculation about her future.

She did her part, it suggests, but the outcome was out of her hands. And so Clinton is

gram, which she helped orchestrate and which has pulled Iran to the bargaining table. On the other, she is subtly distancing herself from the things that have not worked out, like Obama's "reset" of relations with Russia.

nents, losing no time in trying to define her, note that she gave Russia's foreign minister the infamous mis-translated red plastic button to reset relations. It said "overcharge," not "reset." They have been tireless in raising questions about the



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# Hundreds remain missing after Korean ferry sinks

CHOE SANG-HUN

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**SEOUL, South Korea** - More than 280 people, most of them students, remained unaccounted for Wednesday as coast guard and navy divers searched a ferry that sank hours earlier off the southwestern tip of South Korea. By midnight, six people were confirmed dead, including three 17-year-old high school students and a member of the ferry's crew. But fears that the sinking could become one of the worst peacetime disasters in South Korea increased as rescued passengers told news outlets that they believed many people had been trapped below deck after those aboard heard a loud noise and the ship began sinking rapidly. Some rescued passengers who had been below deck told reporters that even while the ship was tilting, they were told to stay in their seats. "We must not give up," President Park Geun-hye said from the headquarters of the Ministry of Security and Public Ad-

ministration, which is coordinating the rescue efforts. "We must do our best to rescue even one of those passengers and students who may not have escaped from the ship."

Lee Gyeong-og, vice minister of security and public administration, said 160 navy and coast guard divers were working at the scene, but that their operations were hampered by rapid currents and poor underwater visibility.

Among the passengers were 325 students from Danwon High School in Ansan, south of Seoul. So far, 75 of them are known to have been rescued. The students were on an overnight voyage to Jeju, a popular resort island, where they had been scheduled to arrive Wednesday morning for a four-day field trip and sightseeing. The ministry reported that a total of 175 passengers and crew members were known to have been rescued; given the known deaths, that left 281 of the 462 people on the ferry unaccounted for. □



In this photo released by South Korea Coast Guard via Yonhap News Agency, a ferry sinks in the water off the southern coast near Jindo, south of Seoul, Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Nearly 300 people were still missing Wednesday several hours after a ferry carrying 459, most of them high school students, sank in cold waters off South Korea's southern coast, killing at least two and injuring seven, officials said. (AP Photo/South Korea Coast Guard via Yonhap)

## Ebola outbreak is a new strain

M. MARCHIONE  
AP Medical Writer

The Ebola virus that has killed scores of people in Guinea this year is a new strain — evidence that the disease did not spread there from outbreaks in some other African nations, scientists report. "The source of the virus is still not known," but it was not imported from nearby countries, said Dr. Stephan Gunther of the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany. He led an international team of researchers who studied the genetics of the virus and reported results online Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The ongoing outbreak has caused panic and killed more than 120 people in West Africa, mostly in Guinea, according to the World Health Organization. Ebola causes internal bleeding and organ failure and is fatal in 30 percent

to 90 percent of cases, depending on the strain. It spreads through direct contact with infected people, and some earlier cases have been linked to certain fruit bats that live in West Africa.

There is no cure or vaccine, so containing the outbreak has focused on supportive care for those infected with the virus and isolating them to limit its spread.

Earlier, health officials had said the Guinea Ebola was a Zaire strain, different from the kind that has caused cases in other parts of Africa. The Democratic Republic of Congo used to be called Zaire.

The new research analyzed blood samples from 20 patients in the current outbreak and found the strain was unique.

"It is not coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has not been imported to Guinea" from that country or from Gabon, where Ebola also has occurred, Gunther said. □

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## 20 killed as Islamic extremists rampage in Nigeria

**BASHIR ADIGUN**  
**MICHELLE FAUL**  
**Associated Press**

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — Suspected Islamic militants have struck for a fourth time in three days in Nigeria, killing 20 people including a traditional ruler in attacks in the northeast, local government and security officials said Wednesday. The unprecedented string of attacks, which started with a massive explosion in the capital that killed at least 75 people, has many questioning the ability of Nigeria's military to con-

tain the 5-year-old Islamic uprising. It has killed more than 1,500 people this year alone, compared to an estimated 3,600 between 2010 and 2013. "Once again, the sophisticated methods of the bombers and insurgents, the audacity of their open attacks and the devastating stealth with which they operate ... calls into question the strategy of the Nigerian security forces and their commitment to the fight," The Guardian newspaper of Nigeria said in an editorial Wednesday.



Hamza Ibrahim, left, a victim of Monday's bomb explosion at a bus park recovers at Asokoro hospital while his brother Idris Ibrahim takes care of him in Abuja, Nigeria, Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Dozens are feared dead as the blast destroyed more than 30 vehicles and caused secondary explosions as their fuel tanks exploded and burned.

(AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

"As Nigeria bleeds all over, a more heart-rending phenomenon is the politicization of the insurgency," the independent and authoritative newspaper said. "The ruling elite seems conscienceless enough to be exploiting the crisis, in symbols and in substance." Just last week the emir of embattled Gwoza district had appealed to the government to "save our souls," saying his people are being attacked daily. By Tuesday, one of his local monarchs was dead.

"They simply walked right into the palace of the monarch and shot him in his bedroom, and on their way out they also shot his guard before fleeing," said local politician Hyeldi Bwala. Wednesday morning, gunmen attacked the village of Wala, in Gwoza district, and killed 18 people, according to a local government official and an intelligence agent. They both spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters.

The emir, Idrissa Timta, had indicated security forces were inadequate and said he might have to flee to neighboring Cameroon "where we may perhaps get protection." "We in Gwoza have suffered too many attacks, killings and destruction," he said. "Our people have been forced to flee, our markets no longer operate optimally, food items, goods and wares are no longer coming in ... We want action from government so that lives can be saved."

## Venezuelan talks show signs of progress

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Negotiators from Venezuela's government and the opposition agreed to broaden membership in a truth commission tasked with investigating who's to blame for 41 deaths tied to weeks of political unrest. The compromise was announced following hours of negotiations that took place Tuesday night behind closed doors in what both sides described as a much-needed if torturous attempt at dialogue in a nation

polarized by 15 years of socialist rule. Heading into Tuesday's talks the government had insisted that any probing of the protests be led by Congress, which it dominates. But it partially met the opposition's demands for an independent commission by agreeing to include national figures trusted by both sides. Talks that began last week are being sponsored by the Vatican as well as three South American nations.

Sunday, April 20th, 2014 - 11:00 am - 2:30 PM

**Easter Brunch**

Easter Brunch and Bingo at Carambola Restaurant

**Cold Selections:**

- Potato Salad with scallions and Bacon bits
- Classic Caesar and chopped salad station with assorted dressings and condiments
- Tomato and Cucumber Salad
- Chicken Raisin Salad
- Fresh home baked Bread and Garlic Butter

**Soup station**

- Lobster Bisque

**Prepare to order Omelets:**

- Ham, bacon, onions, peppers, mushrooms and cheese

**Prepare to order Waffles and Pancakes:**

- Fresh Strawberries, blueberries, Syrup, whipped cream

**Seafood Fountain**

- Peel-n-eat Shrimps,
- Smoked Salmon rosettes with red onions and honey
- Mustard sauce,
- Caribbean Ceviche
- Tuna Tataki

**Chef's specialties**

- Chicken topped with Spinach and Mushrooms in creamy Garlic sauce
- Fresh catch with Creole sauce
- Penne pasta with fresh tomato & basil sauce
- Cabrito Stoba "Stew Goat"
- Carni Stoba "Beef Stew"

**Carving Station**

- Roasted marinated Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom and Pica de Gallo sauce
- Mango glazed Ham with grilled Pineapple chutney

**Sides**

- Oven roasted Potatoes with garlic and Herbs
- Seasonal Veggies
- Caribbean Fried Rice

**Assorted Breakfast pastries, Cakes and Fruits**

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# Cuba publishes text of foreign investment law



Cuba's Vice-President Miguel Diaz-Canel, center, Cuba's President Raul Castro, left, First Vice-President of the Council of State Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, second from right, and Commander of the Cuban Revolution Ramiro Valdes, right, raise their hands to vote the foreign investment law during an extraordinary session at the National Assembly in Havana, Cuba. (AP Photo/Ismael Francisco, Cubadebate)

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ  
Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuba on Wednesday published the full language of a new law that seeks to make it more attractive for foreign investors to bring badly needed capital to the island, but provides less advantage for projects that are 100 percent foreign-financed. The law was approved by parliament and its broad outlines were aired in state media, and the text is now publicly available after being published in the government's Official Gazette. Havana is betting that the measure will make the country more attractive to the business community and bring in more foreign investment, which has been flat including in the

years since President Raul Castro began a program of economic reforms. The measure, which takes effect in late June, includes tax breaks for new investments and property guarantees for investors. It also outlines arbitration procedures and labor rules for foreign-financed projects. Investments in mixed-ownership projects or in tandem with independent cooperatives will enjoy a tax holiday for the first eight years of operation and pay 15 percent on profits after that — about half the current rate. Such operations will also be exempt from payroll taxes. However, projects that are funded completely by foreign capital do not automatically qualify for those

breaks, unless they are granted an exemption by the government.

Foreign companies will still be required to hire local employees through a Cuban employment agency instead of directly, something that many who have done business on the island have complained about for years. The law allows for investors to work with independent cooperatives, but does not establish a mechanism for the same to happen with the small private sector that has been budding under Castro's reforms. The new rules replace a law from 1995. Officials all the way up to Castro have said that getting more foreign investment is vital if they are to meet their economic goals in the coming years.

The law does not rule out investment by Cuban emigres overseas, although

exiles in the United States would likely be barred from most if not all projects by the U.S. embargo, which restricts financial transactions with the Cuban government.

Authorities have said in recent weeks that they are not specifically targeting the Cuban diaspora for investment. They said projects will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Arturo Lopez-Levy, a Cuban-born economist at the University of Denver, said Cuba will miss a big opportunity if it doesn't look to emigrants who live in countries such as Spain or Mexico and are not affected by the U.S. embargo.

"There are certain luxuries that a country focused on development cannot take," he said. □



## Dominican Republic installs beach despite its drought

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — The Dominican Republic is being criticized for building a temporary artificial beach amid a drought. The yearly project is intended for those who cannot afford to travel during Holy Week and will include 12 pools near a boardwalk in the capital of Santo Domingo. Critics say the project should have been cancelled since there is currently water rationing and interruptions in water ser-

vice. Mayor Roberto Salcedo said Wednesday that water for the pools will come from underground reservoirs his office uses. He estimates 500,000 people will visit the artificial beach. Santo Domingo has 19 miles (30 kilometers) of coast, but the beaches are mostly rocky and the water contaminated. The capital's lone sandy beach is closed during Holy Week because its waters are considered too dangerous for the holiday crowds. □

## \$1000 Slot *Tournament*

Saturday, April 19, 2014.  
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# China's growth slows to 7.4 percent in 1Q

**JOE McDONALD**  
 AP Business Writer

**BEIJING (AP)** — China's economic growth slowed further in the latest quarter but appeared strong enough to satisfy Chinese leaders who are trying to put the country on a more sustainable path without politically dangerous job losses.

The world's second-largest economy grew 7.4 percent from a year earlier in the January-March quarter, down from the previous quarter's 7.7 percent, government data showed Wednesday. It matched a mini-slump in late 2012 for the weakest growth since the 2008-09 global crisis.

Beijing is trying to guide China's economy toward growth based on domestic consumption instead of



Chinese shop for groceries at a supermarket in Handan city in north China's Hebei province. China's consumer inflation edged up in March as food prices rose despite signs the world's second-largest economy is slowing. (AP Photo)

# Court rejects bankruptcy protection for Mt. Gox

**YURI KAGEYAMA**  
 AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — The Mt. Gox bitcoin exchange in Tokyo is headed for liquidation after a court rejected its bankruptcy protection application.

Mt. Gox said Wednesday the Tokyo District Court decided the company, which was a trading platform and storehouse for the bitcoin virtual currency, would not be able to resurrect itself under a business rehabilitation process filed for in February.

An administrator will try to sell the company's assets, and many creditors, including those who had bitcoins with the exchange, are unlikely to get any money back.

After Mt. Gox went offline in February, its CEO Mark Karpeles said 850,000 bitcoins worth several hundred million dollars were unaccounted for, blaming a weakness in the exchange's systems.

Later, Mt. Gox found 200,000 of the bitcoins, changing the estimate for the lost virtual currency to 650,000 bitcoins, although the exact amount is still under investigation. Mt Gox has suggested the bitcoins were stolen. The company has not been able to confirm the bitcoin balances of its users. Bitcoins were created in 2009 by a mysterious figure or group known as Satoshi Nakamoto and are used for transactions across borders without third parties such as banks. They have also become an investment craze.

Mt. Gox said in a statement that bankruptcy proceedings are likely to start in the U.S. along with the action in Japan, but the timing is still unclear.

trade and investment following the past decade's explosive expansion. The top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, last week ruled out new stimulus and said leaders will focus on "sustainable and healthy development."

"Chinese growth held up better than expected last quarter and there are signs that downwards pressure on growth has eased somewhat," said analyst Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

Retail sales and factory output were weaker than in the previous quarter but improved in March. On a quarter-to-quarter basis, economic growth from January to March slowed to 1.4 percent from the previous period's 1.8 percent.

The data reflect official efforts to shift emphasis from investment-intensive industry to services such as restaurants and retailing that generate more jobs.

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**19<sup>th</sup> of April**





April 20:

## Celebrate Earth Day with the 5k Eco Walk 2014 on Easter Sunday!

Earth Day is a globally recognized day to raise awareness around environmental sustainability. The first Earth Day was organized in the US in 1970, then became global in 1990, as the need for environmental awareness around the world continued to grow. Earth Day is now an occasion to energize ourselves to be part of the solution on the path towards environmental sustainability. "Hyatt Thrive" in cooperation with Fundacion Gabriel Flores will be organizing the Earth Day Walk 2014. This foundation is known for creating various environmental awareness and cultural school projects. Any funds raised with the walk will be used for such projects, which is five florins per participant. "Hyatt Thrive" is Hyatt's global effort to help make the communities in which we operate places that our associates are proud to work, our guests



want to visit, our neighbors want to live and hotel owners want to invest. Hyatt Thrive focuses on four areas that we believe are essential to a thriving community; Environmental Sustainability – Hyatt Earth, Education & Personal Advancement, Economic Development & Investment and Health & Wellness. In regards to

Environmental Sustainability we are taking focused, aggressive steps to reduce resource consumption, waste and emissions at our hotels – and protecting the natural environment in our local communities. Environmental sustainability is a journey and not a short-term endeavor. Achieving measurable results requires

a conscious effort and a healthy mix of focus, innovation, commitment and optimism, by all parties involved.

The route of the walk will be Hyatt – La Cabana – Hyatt and will be a total of 5 KM. The event will start at 5pm at the Hyatt parking-lot with a warm up Zumba session of 30 minutes after

which the walk will start at 5.30pm. There will be a scavenger hunt and raffle with fabulous door prizes and prizes for the ones who participate with a creatively pimped Earth Day Theme T-shirt to create even more environmental awareness. There will also be fruits, juice and music. Participants can sign up at the Hyatt parking-lot on Saturday April 19 from 12pm till sunset and on Sunday April 20 from 12pm till 5pm, with a participation fee of Awg 5,-. For more information call IBISA at 5824987 or e-mail [eco4life-aruba@hotmail.com](mailto:eco4life-aruba@hotmail.com).

To all people of Aruba; locals, residents and visitors, who will participate in the Earth Day Eco Walk this coming April 20, please come with your family and friends and have some fun during this Earth Day Celebration while creating environmental awareness. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step! □



In less than two weeks:

## Hyatt Regency Casino gives away over \$59,000 in prizes!

**ORANJESTAD** – Tourists that come to our island, without a doubt like to have fun, and that includes being entertained at the casinos. Hyatt Regency Casino is one of them that truly caters to their visitors.

In just two weeks, Hyatt Regency Casino gave away over \$59,000 in prizes to its visitor. Here are just a few of the winners:

Ronald McCaslin Won \$3.600 in only 15 minutes at the Triple Diamond Machine

James Sclavunos won \$2.400 in only 40 minutes at the Poker Machine

Douglas Martino won \$3.000 at The Phantom of the Opera with only a \$10 bet

Victoria Efferen won \$5.040 within 10 minutes playing at the Famous 777 machine

George Konis won \$5015 within 10 minutes playing at the Famous 777 machine

Jim Curran won \$7785 playing at the Quick Hit machine with only a \$2 bet

Greg de Troia won \$5.000 with a \$10 bet in only 15 minutes at the Famous 777 machine

Richard Rinaldi won \$6595 at the Quick Hit machine with a \$2 bet

Come by and have some fun at the Hyatt Regency Casino. Doors open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 AM. Pass by our Players Advantage Club to sign up and enjoy more of our weekly promotions.

Our \$1,000 Slot tournament will be on Saturday April 18 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. On Friday April 17, receive double the points playing at our jackpot machines.

Saturday April 26, we will be having our \$1,200 Black-jack tournament.

Feeling lucky? Come by the Hyatt Regency Casino for some REAL fun. □



**Win prizes!**

# Exciting Easter Egg Hunt at De Palm Island!



BALASHI - Sunday April 20 and Monday April 21 De Palm Island hosts an exciting Easter Egg Hunt for young and old. Each day you will have the chance to win spectacular prizes like a hotel stay or dinner for two. But you can also leave beautiful Palm Island

with free tickets for different tours like the Seaworld Explorer, Sunset Sail with Palm Pleasure, Island Bus Tours or the brand new Off-Road Bike Tour. All fabulous trips where you will enjoy the island of Aruba in a different way. Book your tickets to De Palm Is-

land not, sign up for the Easter Egg Hunt after arriving and take home those prizes! Besides the Easter Egg Hunt and De Palm Island's general activities and open bar, a local band will perform to complete your day. De Palm Island is located in



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*On The Beach*

**Hanna Gonzales**

**She is from Caracas, Venezuela. Her first time in Aruba**

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beach chairs, palapas, unlimited banana boat rides, a water park, snorkeling and guided snorkel tours and much more. Tickets for De Palm Island are for sale online via [www.depalmisland.com](http://www.depalmisland.com), at your hotel concierge desk, at De Palm Tours Sales Center (LG Smith Blvd., one block from Certified) or at Port de Palm (when going to the island in Balashi). For more information visit our website or [www.facebook.com/depalmisland](http://www.facebook.com/depalmisland), your concierge or call (+297) 522-4500. □



## Eat like a local on Easter at Bugaloe!



**PALM BEACH**— While it is a true Aruban tradition to eat fish at home on Easter, Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill, located on the pier between Radisson and Riu hotel, would like to continue this tradition. We are opening the doors of our home, and invite you to come and enjoy typical Aruban food, this Easter Sunday and Monday.

Walk in, and eat like the locals do with a special Easter Menu with Creole Barracuda or Snapper filer with Fried Funchi, Fried Plantain and White Rice for only US\$15! Enjoy this special meal with live music and stunning 360 degree views. Don't forget to try some of the island's best homemade cocktails. So, don't have plans for Easter yet? What are you waiting for? We will make sure you'll have a great time celebrating Easter with the Bugaloe Family and Friends.

For more information please visit: [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com), [www.facebook.com/bugaloe.aruba](http://www.facebook.com/bugaloe.aruba).



**THIS EASTER MONDAY:**

## EQ3 invites you to visit the open house of Isla Bonita!



with private pool all focused on sustainability and durability. The 2- or 3- bedroom residences offer modern and functional condominiums with open Italian kitchen, easily flowing into the dining and living room. Breakfast can be enjoyed on the private balcony overlooking the pool. With just

**ORANJESTAD** – Get some Aruban modern living inspiration! EQ3 Aruba, the popular furniture store for modern living, and Isla Bonita team up to invite you to their open house located just next to save a lot supermarket at Bubali this Easter Monday from 11 AM-4 PM.

Get your inspiration from several model units that will be open on this special day, enjoy the art of local artist Anna Ophelia Potesand discover Aruba's newest affordable modern living project with it's luxurious amenities.

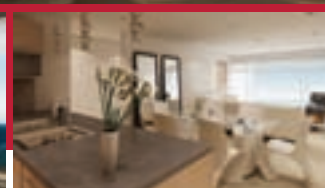
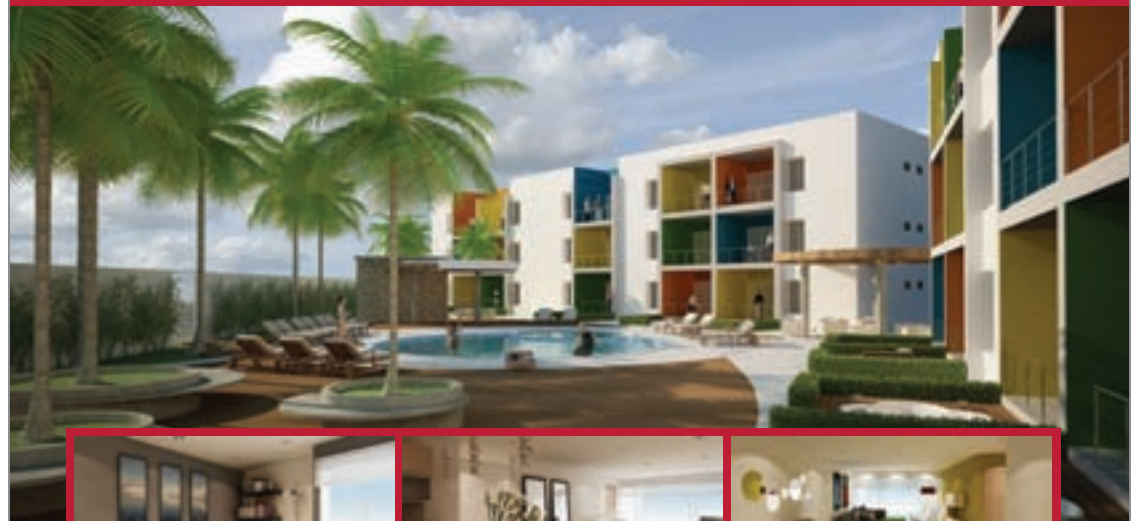
Isla Bonita Residences is building over 20 spacious luxurious condominium-

a few minutes away from Aruba's most pristine beaches, Isla Bonita offers its residents a perfect getaway. When only the best is good enough, the interior could only be handled by a company with the same high standards.

EQ3 furniture and accessories, that is located at Schotlandstraat 45, is a place for modern home inspiration. A professional team of designers that will be present during the event will gladly inform you all unique affordable possibilities they offer.

Event Location: Boegoeroei 43-G (Bubali) next to Save-a-Lot supermarket. Time: 11 AM-4-PM! □

YOU ARE INVITED!  
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**EASTER MONDAY • APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> • 11 AM – 4 PM**

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## Alhambra Casino Celebrates Easter with Special Menus and Special Bingo!



**PUNTA BRABO** - Alhambra Casino celebrates this Easter week with specials for all its clientele and all the Aruba community. This April 20th The Cove Restaurant located in the Alhambra Casino will be open from 5pm with two special menus for Easter.

Come and try the Steak Dinner menus with Cream

of Broccoli as appetizer, Flat Iron Steak served with Cognac Mushroom Sauce as main dish and Cheesecake with Strawberry and Cherry Sauce, coffee or tea. Second special menu is Potato Soup, Garlic Shrimp in White Wine Sauce, Cheesecake with Strawberry and Cherry Sauce, coffee or tea. Both

menus cost only \$25 ea, or you may decide to choose from the regular menu. Easter weekend continues with Easter Bingo on April 21, at 1pm. There is a total of \$1500 in prizes. Price per ticket is \$8.50 for 8 games, with an additional \$100 when you cover all four corners within 8 calls. For only 2 florin you can also be in the game to win the bingo progressive jackpot which is more than \$13,000. Progressive in 51 calls pays \$500, in 52 calls pays \$300 and in 53 calls or more pays \$200. Furthermore, Alhambra Casino continues with its new members campaign of \$10 free play when you sign up as a new member. So, do not miss this Easter weekend with special Easter Menus at The Cove Restaurant on Friday April 20th and Easter Bingo on the 21st only at the Alhambra Casino. □



**EASTER**  
**BINGO**  
**Monday, April 21 • 1:00pm**  
 8 games to Play! • \$8.50 for 4 Cards!  
 Progressive within 50 calls  
**Win an additional \$100 when you cover all 4 corners within 8 calls!**  
**AWG. 24,735 / \$13.750,00\***  
 Progressive within 51 Calls    Progressive within 52 Calls    Progressive within 53+ Calls  
**\$500      \$300      \$200**  
 \* Progressive amount unless hit before 4/21/2014.

*Double your prize with*  
**POWERBALL**  
*Special Easter*  
**DOOR PRIZES!**

### BINGO Games & Prizes

Game 1	Letter X	\$75
Game 2	Large Diamonds	\$75
Game 3	Lucky 7	\$100
Game 4	Letter H	\$100
30 Minute Break / Pick 5 Winners		
Game 5	+ or Cross	\$150
Game 6	Postage Stamps	\$200
Game 7	Letter T	\$300
Game 8	Full Card	\$500

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**CASINO AND SHOPS**





In this April 12, 2014 file photo, Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick stops a shot by Anaheim Ducks right wing Corey Perry during the third period of an NHL hockey game, in Los Angeles. The old adage about predicting the winner of the Stanley Cup boils down to finding the hot goalie as the weather warms up outside. Associated Press

## Hoisting the Cup without a hot goalie hard to do

**DAVE CAMPBELL**  
AP Sports Writer

The NHL playoffs have arrived, which means it's time for the goalies to get going.

As simplistic as the adage can be, predictions of the Stanley Cup champion often tilt toward the guy in the crease producing the biggest saves of the spring. Hoisting the hallowed trophy is hard to do without a hot goalie.

So who are the ones to watch this time?

Corey Crawford was the winner last year with Chicago, so let's skip him. League-leading Boston, with the stellar Tuukka Rask in goal, is probably too obvious.

Similarly, we'll pass over other top-five seeds with well-established netminders who finished among the league leaders this season: Pittsburgh and Marc-Andre Fleury, the New York Rangers and Henrik Lundqvist, and Montreal's Carey Price.

Some of the bigger names struggled toward the end

and aren't taking much momentum into the playoffs: Anaheim's Jonas Hiller, St. Louis' Ryan Miller, and San Jose's Antti Niemi. Kari Lehtonen had a strong season for Dallas, but his playoff experience is minimal. Philadelphia's Steve Mason is in that category, too.

With the suspense out of the way, here's six candidates with the potential to be that next impenetrable presence between the pipes over the next two months:

**SERGEI BOBROVSKY:** The 25-year-old Russian known affectionately as "Bob" has helped steer Columbus to the playoffs for just the second time in franchise history. Bobrovsky had five shutouts and was ninth in the NHL this season with his .923 save percentage. The Pittsburgh Penguins pose a significant challenge as the opening opponent, but Bobrovsky has stolen many games for the Blue Jackets.

*Continued on Page 22*



Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Mike Leake adjusts his gloves while standing on second base after hitting a double off Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Gerrit Cole in the third inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in Cincinnati. Associated Press





Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Mike Leake throws to a Pittsburgh Pirates batter in the first inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in Cincinnati. Associated Press

## NL Capsules

# Leake's HR leads Reds over Pirates 7-5 for split


**The Associated Press CINCINNATI (AP)** — Mike Leake doubled and hit a two-run homer Tuesday to end Gerrit Cole's winning streak and lead the Cincinnati Reds to a 7-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates that completed two days full of homers and delays. First, the National League Central rivals completed a game that was suspended in the sixth inning because of rain the previous night. Andrew McCutchen doubled and came around on Russell Martin's single in the seventh inning, giving the Pirates an 8-7 win. Leake (2-1) gave up three runs and five hits in 6 2-3 in-

nings for a split. The right-hander has won his last four starts against the Pirates. Jonathan Broxton pitched out of a two-on threat in the ninth, converting his first save chance. Leake, who has the most hits by a major league pitcher since 2010, doubled and scored in the third. He hit his third career homer in the sixth off Cole (2-1), who had won his last six starts. Todd Frazier hit his second homer in two games and Joey Votto had four hits. Neil Walker hit three of Pittsburgh's seven homers in the two games. The teams wore their customary uniforms for the completion of the suspended game, then switched to commemorative No. 42 Jackie Robinson jerseys for the later game, which started 5 minutes later than originally scheduled. The teams put on a record-setting show Monday night before the game was suspended after six innings tied 7-all. They combined for 10 homers in those six innings, the most for a game in Great American Ball Park's 12 seasons. When play resumed, McCutchen doubled off Sam LeCure (0-1). Bryan Morris (2-0) gave up Mesoraco's tying solo homer in the sixth inning Monday night, but was still the pitcher of record. Jason Grilli pitched the ninth for his fourth save in five chances.

**MARLINS 11, NATIONALS 2 MIAMI (AP)** — Giancarlo Stanton tied a career high with five RBIs, including a three-run homer off Stephen Strasburg as Miami broke an eight-game losing streak by beating Washington. Strasburg (1-2) allowed six runs and eight hits in four innings. He fell to 2-3 at Marlins Park with an ERA of 8.61. Tom Koehler (2-1) yielded one hit and five walks in seven scoreless innings to lower his ERA to 1.89. The

performance was a welcome change for a team that had an ERA of 6.12 during the losing streak. Both benches and bullpens cleared briefly in the fourth inning when the Nationals' Ian Desmond and Marlins catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia engaged in a heated, nose-to-nose conversation at home plate. Desmond became annoyed when he barely avoided being hit by an inside pitch from Koehler. The confrontation didn't escalate. **CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 1 MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Shelby Miller struck out seven and allowed three hits over six innings, and Mark Ellis had two RBIs in his return from the disabled list to lead St. Louis over Milwaukee. Matt Holliday and Jhonny Peralta homered in the ninth for the Cardinals, who handed the Brewers their second straight loss following a nine-game winning streak. Miller (1-2) routinely fired fastballs clocked in the mid-90s (mph) and gave up only a homer to Aramis Ramirez in the fourth. The Brewers have one run and six hits in the first two games of the series. Marco Estrada (1-1) allowed three runs in six innings. **METS 9, DIAMONDBACKS 0 PHOENIX (AP)** — Kirk Nieuwenhuis had three hits and three RBIs in his season debut, and Jenrry Mejia pitched five effective innings in a combined three-hitter as New York routed the struggling Arizona Diamondbacks. The Mets placed center fielder Juan Lagares on the 15-day disabled list with a pulled hamstring and called up Nieuwenhuis from the minors before the game. He slid into Lagares' spot nicely, hitting a two-run homer during a six-run fourth inning against Bronson Arroyo (1-1) and adding a diving catch in the fifth. □

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## AL Capsules

# Fielder ends HR drought, Rangers beat Mariners 5-0

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Prince Fielder and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit back-to-back homers as Robbie Ross limited Seattle to five singles in seven-plus innings as the Texas Rangers beat the Mariners 5-0 Tuesday.

Fielder ended a 13-game homerless streak to start the season with his new team, hitting a line drive to right-center off former Texas first-round pick Blake Beavan (0-1) leading off the second inning. Two pitches later, Kouzmanoff went deep to left.

Kouzmanoff also had two doubles, the second one driving in two runs to put the Rangers up 4-0 in the eighth. Ross (1-0), a former reliever, got his first win as a starter in his third try as the Rangers recorded their third straight win by shutout and fourth in seven victories overall.

Fielder's homer drought was the second-longest of his career to start the season. He twice went 14 games before his first long ball — in 2008 and 2010.

ATHLETICS 10, ANGELS 9, 11 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Josh Donaldson drove in Jed Lowrie with an 11th-inning double as Oakland overcame Mike Trout's game-leveling homer in the ninth to beat Los Angeles.

Lowrie led off the 11th with a single against Yoslan Herrera (0-1), the Angels' seventh pitcher. Donaldson hit a sharp grounder inside third base for the AL-leading A's, who have won four straight and eight of nine. Jim Johnson (2-2) pitched two innings for Oakland, getting Howie Kendrick on a groundout with Trout and Albert Pujols in scoring position to end it.

Trout hit a two-run shot in the ninth for the Angels, who have lost three of four. Both teams erased late three-run deficits during two dismal bullpen performances. The Angels trailed 9-6 in the eighth after leading 6-3 heading to the seventh.

WHITE SOX 2, RED SOX 1



Texas Rangers Prince Fielder is congratulated after his solo home run during the second inning of the MLB American League baseball game against the Seattle Mariners Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in Arlington, Texas. Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Alexei Ramirez scored the winning run in the ninth inning on a two-out throwing error by Xander Bogaerts as Chicago edged Boston on a frigid night.

With the score tied at 1, Red Sox reliever Burke Badenhop (0-2) allowed a one-out single to Ramirez. After Tyler Flowers stuck out, Chris Capuano walked Adam Eaton. On a 3-2 count, Marcus Semien hit a grounder to Bogaerts, who one-hopped his throw to first baseman Mike Carp. Carp wasn't able to scoop the throw and Ramirez, already running on the pitch, never stopped while rounding third and scored without a throw.

Daniel Webb (1-0) got one out for the victory.

The temperature at first pitch was 40 degrees. The upper deck was closed because of ice on the ramps. Adam Dunn homered for the White Sox, who have won four of five. Daniel Nava homered for Boston, which has lost three straight.

Red Sox slugger Mike Napoli left in the ninth after injuring his left ring finger sliding into second base.

ROYALS 4, ASTROS 2 HOUSTON (AP) — Yordano Ventura threw seven strong innings for his first major league win to lead Kansas City over Houston.

Omar Infante homered and drove in two runs for the Royals.

Ventura (1-0), an elite prospect with a 100 mph fastball, allowed four hits and one earned run with seven strikeouts in his fifth major league start.

Infante hit a solo shot in the first off Lucas Harrell (0-3) as the Royals found some offense after managing just five runs combined while getting swept last week-end in Minnesota.

Carlos Corporan homered for the Astros.

BLUE JAYS 9, TWINS 3 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jose Bautista had three hits and an RBI, and Brett Lawrie hit a grand slam in the ninth inning to help Toronto beat Minnesota. □

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**NBA Capsules**

# Knicks rolls past Nets without Anthony

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 16 points as the New York Knicks, playing without the injured Carmelo Anthony, beat the Brooklyn Nets 109-98 on Tuesday to win the season series between city rivals. The Knicks prevented the Nets from clinching the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs and won their third straight in their too-little, too-late strong finish. Amare Stoudemire and J.R. Smith each added 14 points. Anthony had an MRI exam Tuesday that revealed a torn labrum in his right shoulder. He won't play Wednesday against Toronto, the final game of the first season in his 11-year career that won't end with a playoff berth — and potentially his last as a

member of the Knicks. He has said he will become a free agent in July. Marcus Thornton scored 24 points for the Nets, who weren't sharp despite playing starters Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett, Deron Williams and Joe Johnson. The other starter, Shaun Livingston, remained sidelined with a sprained right big toe. The Nets still have a magic number of one for finishing fifth. But they could fall to No. 6 if they lose Wednesday in Cleveland and Washington beats Boston. **CLIPPERS 117, NUGGETS 105** **LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Blake Griffin scored 24 points while picking up his 16th technical as Los Angeles led all the way to beat Denver for its

club-record 57th victory of the season. Chris Paul had 21 points and 10 assists, and J.J. Redick added 18 points in the Clippers' finale at home, where they went 34-7 for another franchise mark. DeAndre Jordan had 13 points and 16 rebounds. The win kept the Clippers in the hunt for the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs. They would need to win at Portland and Oklahoma City would need to lose to Detroit on Wednesday night for the Clippers to claim the second spot. Otherwise, they will remain the third seed. Los Angeles will have to get by without Griffin on the road since his 16th tech triggered a league-mandated one-game suspension. □



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, left, goes up for a dunk as Denver Nuggets forward Quincy Miller, right, defends and guard Aaron Brooks watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in Los Angeles  
Associated Press

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## Gay rights group sends petition to IOC

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)** — More than 100,000 members of an international gay rights group have sent messages to the IOC urging changes to ensure that future Olympic host countries do not have discriminatory laws on their books. The group All Out reiterated its call on the International Olympic Committee to overhaul its selection process, citing the controversy that surrounded the Winter Games in Sochi over Russia's law prohibiting so-called gay "propaganda." All Out says it delivered its message before Tuesday's deadline for public submis-

sions on "Olympic Agenda 2020," IOC President Thomas Bach's project for reforms that will be voted on in December in Monaco. All Out says more than 74,000 members signed a petition delivered to the IOC and another 41,000 sent their own messages. The group wants the IOC to require that host countries have no discriminatory laws in place and future host city contracts include human rights pledges. It also urges the IOC to amend a clause in the Olympic Charter to specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. □





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## Federer & Nadal into Monte Carlo Masters 3rd round



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Teymuraz Gabashvili of Russia during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Nadal won 6-4 6-1.

Associated Press

### JEROME PUGMIRE

#### AP Sports Writer

**MONACO (AP)** — Roger Federer was happier than eight-time champion Rafael Nadal after their straight-sets wins to reach the Monte Carlo Masters third round on Wednesday. Federer took just 52 minutes to beat veteran Radek Stepanek 6-1, 6-2, while Nadal overcame a rusty start to put away Teymuraz Gabashvili 6-4, 6-1.

The top-seeded Nadal, who lost the title to Novak Djokovic last year, dropped his opening service game and trailed 3-1 in the first set. But from 4-4, the Spaniard reeled off six straight games, then the Russian qualifier broke his serve again. "I think I started little bit slow," Nadal said. "But he was playing very, very aggressive, hitting very strong, with no mistakes."

Nadal's body language suggested he was far from happy with his performance. At times he looked glum-faced, other times annoyed with his shots. His serve was vulnerable,

too, as he conceded four break-point chances — including in consecutive service games during the second set. He clinched victory with a crisp forehand winner. "I felt comfortable in the second set," Nadal said. "I think I was playing better." Federer, returning to the tournament for the first time since 2011, was far more ruthless as he raced to 5-0 in 17 minutes. He improved his record against the 35-year-old Stepanek to 14-2. The Czech has not beaten Federer in six years. "A bit surprised how well it went. On clay, when you have the upper hand from the baseline, it's kind of hard to get out of it," Federer said. "That's kind of how it was for Radek. I had a good start to both sets, I was solid on my own service games. It was clearly a good match to start my clay-court campaign."

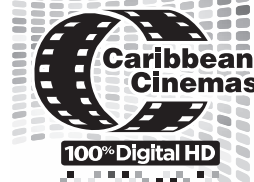
The fourth-seeded Federer next plays another Czech, Lukas Rosol, who beat Frenchman Michael Llodra 6-4, 6-4, while Nadal plays Italian Andreas Seppi, who won 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4 against

Spaniard Pablo Andujar. Federer has never won Monte Carlo, losing in three straight finals to Nadal from 2006-08. They can't meet again until the final. Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka, seeded third, was slightly faster than Federer, needing only 46 minutes to thrash Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-0, 6-2.

"I expected a more difficult first round against him. I felt good on the court," Wawrinka said. "I know that if I feel good physically, then I am able to put a lot of pressure on my opponent." Eighth-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada, No. 10 Fabio Fognini of Italy, No. 11 Tommy Robredo, No. 12 Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria and No. 15 Nicolas Almagro — both Spanish — also advanced to the third round. Raonic rallied to beat Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-1; Fognini downed Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 7-6 (6), 6-4; Robredo won 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 against Julien Benneteau of France; Dimitrov downed Spaniard Albert Ramos 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and Almagro beat Nicolas

Mahut, 7-6 (3), 6-3. Grand Prix Hassan II winner Guillermo Garcia-Lopez beat No. 17 Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-1, 7-5, and

Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta next faces defending champion Novak Djokovic after winning 6-3, 7-6 (6) against Gael Monfils.



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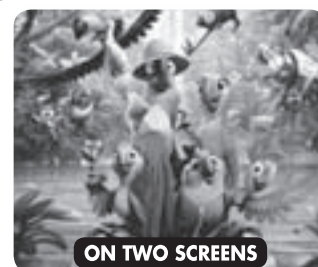
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3D VERSION  
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FRI 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 9:50  
SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 9:50  
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# More former players sue NHL regarding concussions

**JON KRAWCZYNSKI**

**AP Sports Writer**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Another group of former NHL players has joined the fight for compensation for head injuries they say they incurred while playing, while at the same time targeting the violence of the game that they believe brought about those injuries. Retired players Dave Christian, Reed Larson and William Bennett filed a class action lawsuit in federal court on Tuesday alleging that the league

has promoted fighting and downplayed the risk of head injuries that come from it. "I think the glorified violence is really the Achilles heel for the NHL," said Charles "Bucky" Zimmerman, an attorney at Zimmerman Reed that filed the lawsuit on behalf of the players. "If anything comes of this, the focus on the glorified violence and perhaps the change to that will be a good thing." The lawsuit, which is similar to one brought by former football players against

the NFL, joins others filed by hockey players in Washington and New York and seeks monetary damages and increased medical monitoring. The NHLPA declined to comment and a message was left with the NHL seeking comment. Zimmerman also worked on the football litigation, which resulted in the NFL agreeing to pay a \$765 million settlement to thousands of former players. That settlement is still awaiting a judge's ap-

proval, but the headlines it generated have been partially responsible for hockey players mounting their own case against the NHL. "We've seen it in football. It's now here in hockey. It's of the same genesis," Zimmerman said. "There's knowledge, we believe, that these type of concussive injuries were known and protections were not put in place appropriately enough and fast enough and rules changes were not implemented even to-

day in fighting.

"Players continue to be at risk and suffer as a result of those risks that they take on behalf of the sport. We think those are unreasonable and they should be changed and the players should be compensated." The lawsuit alleges "the NHL hid or minimized concussion risks from its players, thereby putting them at a substantially higher risk for developing memory loss, depression, cognitive difficulties, and even brain related diseases such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease."

One argument that tries to separate the NFL litigation from the NHL case is that by engaging in fighting, players willfully take on the health risks that could come from that.

"You could make that argument only to a point," Zimmerman said. "And the point is that the fighting arena would not exist and would be outlawed as it is in every other level of the game had the NHL not condoned it and sold tickets based upon it and promoted the sport in that way. It's not the players that promote the sport in that way because the players don't implement the rules. It's the league that implements the rules. If they would outlaw fighting, there wouldn't be people who would fight." Zimmerman said he thinks more players will join the litigation much in the same way the group of plaintiffs in the NFL case exponentially grew as it progressed.

"The light went on for them as the football players' story was becoming more told," Zimmerman said. "I think the hockey players started to see that their story was going to be heard and told. It's not that we haven't known about football players or hockey players getting hurt. It's now become more important that we talk about it and do something about it rather than just benignly let it continue into the future." □

## HOT GOALIE

*Continued from Page 17*

**JONATHAN QUICK:** There's no need to know more than this: Two years ago, Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy after yielding just 29 goals in 20 play-off games for the Los Angeles Kings on the way to their first title.

**JIMMY HOWARD:** The Detroit Red Wings stretched their remarkable streak of making the playoffs to 23 straight years, but they're lined up in the bracket against the mighty Boston Bruins. With Howard minding the net, maybe this banged-up bunch

can pull off the upset. Top seeds falling in the first round, after all, are hardly historic NHL moments. The U.S. Olympic team member made 35 saves in a 3-2 win on April 2 over Boston, the defending Eastern Conference champion and winner of the 2011 Stanley Cup. Perhaps that planted a seed of doubt in the minds of the Bruins.

**SEMYON VARLAMOV:** Just like his Hall of Fame coach Patrick Roy, Varlamov has the makeup to carry a team a long way if his young and potent forwards aren't fazed. One



**In this Feb. 7, 2014 file photo, Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky (72) of Russia, makes a save during an NHL hockey game against the San Jose Sharks, in San Jose, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

of the Vezina Trophy front-runners, Varlamov led the league with 41 victories and was third with a .927 save percentage. **ILYA**

**BRYZGALOV:** One of four goalies to play at least 12 games for Minnesota this season, Bryzgalov was fetched at the trade deadline for a fourth-round draft pick. He has a spotty track record in playoffs past with Phoenix and Philadelphia, but he came through when the Wild needed him most, posting a 7-3-1 record and 2.12 goals-against average since his acquisition from Edmonton.

**ANDERS LINDBACK:** Lindback left some shaky earlier performances behind him by going 3-0 with a 0.67 goals-against average over the final three games to help Tampa Bay lock up home-ice advantage for the first round against the Montreal Canadiens. This is Ben Bishop's job, having set a Lightning record with 37 wins, but he hurt his elbow last week, leaving his status uncertain. □



**Buffalo Sabres left winger Nicolas Deslauriers (44) chases his rebound after a save by Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jimmy Howard (55) during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, April 8, 2014.**

**Associated Press**



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## Review: Forward to the past with Windows update

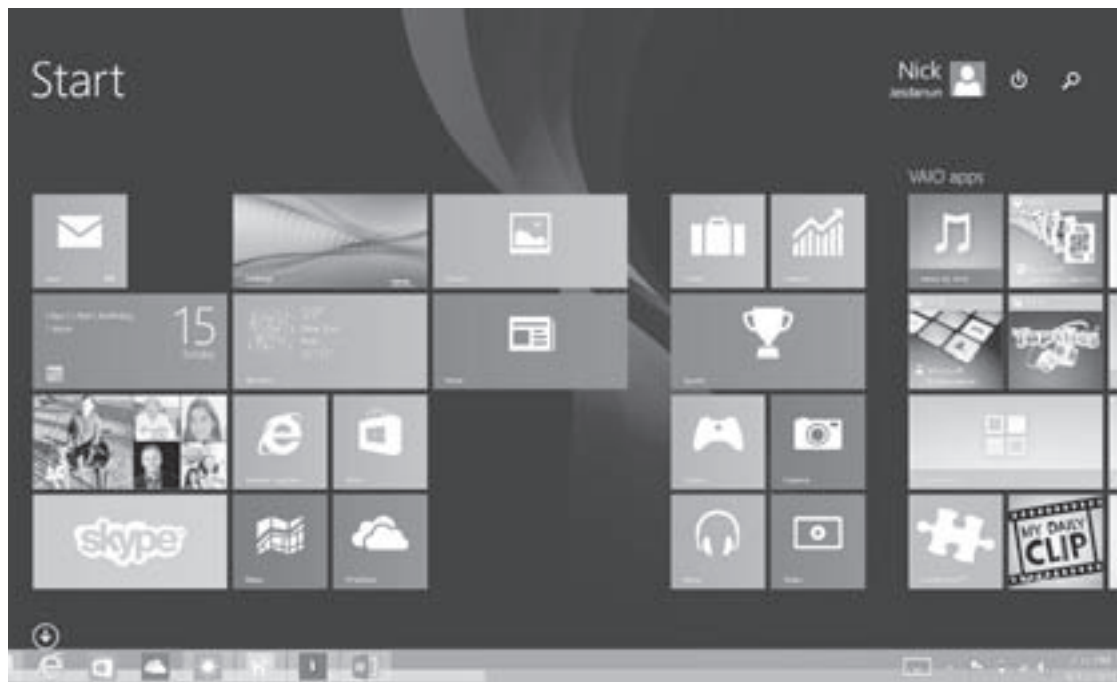
ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — Even as Microsoft prepares for a future dominated by touch-screen devices, it is steering its Windows system to embrace more of the past. The divide between old and new is less pronounced in the latest, free update. That's a welcome change, as that's one of the things that annoy me most about Windows 8.

As sales of smartphones and tablets grow rapidly, Microsoft reshaped Windows so that PCs came to look, work and feel more like mobile devices.

Windows 8 has a full-page, tablet-like start screen filled with large icons, or tiles. Traditional mouse and keyboard controls still work, but it's more efficient if you use touch-screen controls. Windows 8 has a desktop mode that resembles older versions of Windows, but it steers users toward the touch-centric tile mode. Many people hated Windows 8 when it came out in October 2012.

Microsoft responded a year later with Windows 8.1. With the free update, people can change settings to boot computers directly into the desktop. Windows 8.1 restores a Start button on the lower left corner of the desktop, though without all the functionality found in older versions. Windows 8.1 also lets people add their favorite desktop apps to a horizontal taskbar at the bottom of



This screen shot shows the Windows 8.1 start screen. Seeing sales of smartphones and tablets grow rapidly, Microsoft reshaped its Windows operating system so that PCs came to look, work and feel more like smartphones and tablets.

the screen.

In short, Windows 8.1 doesn't try to force people into the tile screen as often. Still, Windows 8.1 feels like two separate systems. Your favorite desktop apps are on the desktop's horizontal taskbar, while your favorite tile-mode apps are on the tile-based start screen. How you perform tasks such as closing an app depends on which mode you're in. Last week's update, simply called Windows 8.1 Update, brings more consistency:

— The tile screen now has prominent buttons for key controls — namely search and shutting down. No longer do you have to figure out how to pull those options out like a sock drawer from the right side of the screen. Microsoft could have gone further

by also including a button for settings, but I'm getting greedy.

— Closing apps in the tile mode used to require moving your cursor to the top, clicking the mouse or pressing the screen until the app shrinks and dragging all that to the bottom. Gone was the "x" at the top right of all apps to close them. That "x" is back, along with a button to minimize, or hide, the app while leaving it running. Unlike past versions of Windows, these buttons at the top disappear until you move the cursor to the top. The good news is this works whether you're in desktop or tile mode, contributing to consistency.

— That desktop taskbar at the bottom now accepts your favorite tile-based apps as well. You're no longer left with some of your

favorites in one place, and the rest in another. And the taskbar now appears when you're in tile mode, too, though it's hidden until you move the cursor to the bottom.

— By default, laptops and desktops boot to the desktop mode, without a setting change required on your part. Tablets still go to the tile-based start screen more fitting for tablets.

— Opening a photo, music or video file in the desktop no longer takes you to a file-based app. You stay in the desktop and use desktop versions of the apps instead. And closing a tile-based app now brings you to the previously used app, not automatically to the tile-based start screen.

These tweaks, though small, are significant when considered on the whole. It's as though Microsoft is acknowledging that tablet-style controls aren't always best for PCs, especially those without touch screens.

In unveiling the update,

Microsoft also hinted at a future that embraces even more of the past:

— Even with the update, you're restricted to two to four tile apps on the same screen. You can decide how much horizontal space each app takes, but you can't adjust the vertical space or have an app overlap over part of another.

Microsoft promises that in a future update, you'll be able to run tile apps as regular windows in the desktop mode. As long as you stay in the desktop, there would no longer be a distinction between the two types of apps.

— Clicking on that restored Start button in the desktop now takes you to the tile-based start screen. You can't open apps or access settings from that button, the way you could with previous versions of Windows. In a future update, you'll be able to do that.

Microsoft hasn't said when the next version will come out, but that preview and last week's update together show that Microsoft is listening to customers.

Many people have resisted buying a Windows computer because of the abrupt changes Windows 8 forces on users. The latest changes will give potential buyers fewer reasons to resist.

### HOW TO GET IT:

Windows 8.1 Update is a free download.

If you already have Windows 8.1, you can go to "Update and recovery" in the settings. It will come automatically if you subscribe to automatic updates.

If you have Windows 8, you must upgrade to 8.1 first. It's a free update through the Windows Store.





# Wall Street closes higher for third day in a row

**ALEX VEIGA**  
**AP Business Writer**

Investors drove stock prices to their highest level in a week Wednesday, encouraged by a crop of corporate earnings and reassuring U.S. and Chinese economic data.

Major U.S. stock indexes notched their third day of gains in a row. Yahoo and Delta Air Lines were among the companies posting big gains. The gains were broad; for every stock that declined, nearly four rose. The market is coming back from a steep drop at the end of last week led by Internet and biotechnology stocks. That move away from some of the riskier, high-priced stocks that drove down the market is nearly, if not completely done now, said Jim Russell, senior equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

"We did think that last week's downside volatility would be limited, and we're very heartened to see a rebound for the first three days this week," he said.

Stocks started climbing from the opening bell on Wednesday as investors cheered the latest quarterly earnings report from Yahoo. The Web pioneer reported late Tuesday that it is making most of its money from its stakes in two Asian Internet companies: China's Alibaba Group and Yahoo Japan.

The market also welcomed a Chinese government report showing that the world's second-largest economy grew 7.4 percent from a year earlier in the January-March quarter. A favorable report on U.S. factory production helped keep investors in a buying mood.



In this photo provided by the New York Stock Exchange Euronext, Carnival Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer, Arnold W. Donald, center, and guests, gather on the podium for the closing bell at the Exchange on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, in New York. Carnival Corporation is headquartered in Doral, Fla.; a suburb of Miami.  
(AP Photo/NYSE Euronext, Dario Cantatore)

Unlike Monday and Tuesday, the rally didn't falter during the day. Instead, the

buying gained momentum in the afternoon after the Federal Reserve said its

latest survey showed economic growth picking up across most of the U.S. over the past two months as bitter winter weather subsided.

"Yesterday was just a crazy day. We were all over the map, and finally today we are showing some strength," said Erik Davidson, deputy chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank.

All told, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.33 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,862.31. All ten industry sectors in the S&P 500 increased, led by industrial stocks, including several airlines and transportation companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 162.29 points, or 1 percent, to 16,424.85. The Nasdaq composite rose 52.06 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,086.22.

The three major stock indexes are each up for the week, but remain down for the month after several days of choppy trading. The three-day rise in stock prices helped push the S&P 500 index up 0.8 percent so far this year.

Investors are closely monitoring company earnings this week as they try to assess whether the impact of a severe winter has begun to ease. □

## Gap Inc. outlines growth plans for China

**ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**  
**AP Retail Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gap Inc. announced Wednesday it plans to more than triple sales in China in three years as it seeks to grab a bigger piece of the overall \$1.4 trillion global clothing market.

The San Francisco-based clothing chain, which operates stores under the Gap, Old Navy, Banana Republic and Athleta brands, generated \$300 million in sales in China in the latest fiscal year ended Feb. 1. It says China will be its biggest growth initiative. The company had 81 Gap stores in China at the end of last year and unveiled its first Old Navy store in the country earlier this year. It plans to open about 30 additional Gap stores in China in the current fiscal year. "Gap has the ability to grow aggressively in China," Jeff Kirwan, president of Gap's Greater China division, told investors at the company's investor meeting Wednesday.

Gap is also trying to meld its online business with its physical stores as it sees

shoppers' purchases influenced by the Web and mobile devices.

As part of that strategy, the chain told investors it's expanding a program that it began testing last June that allows customers to reserve merchandise on-



A shopper leaves a Gap store in Palo Alto, Calif. Gap Inc. announced Wednesday it plans to more than triple sales in China in three years as it seeks to grab a bigger piece of the overall \$1.4 trillion global clothing market. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

line and then pick it up at the store within 24 hours. By the end of the second quarter, it will have that service in all of Gap branded stores. Overall, the service will be in more than 1,000 Gap and Banana Republic

stores.

Art Peck, president of Gap's growth, innovation and digital division, told investors that just under 500,000 reservations have been made since the service was launched. He noted that the program

allows Gap to "monetize footsteps in the store" and to show outfitting suggestions and drive higher transactions. Gap also said that it will start to test a new feature that allows shoppers to or-

der products online in the stores.

Gap Inc., which has been among the bright spots among its peers, said last week that a key sales measure fell more in March than the market had expected, partly because of bad winter weather. Gap's revenue for stores open at least a year fell 6 percent. This is considered a key indicator of a retailer's financial performance as it strips away the impact of recently opened and closed sites. Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters anticipated a drop of 4.7 percent. Gap had already warned investors that a shift of the Easter holiday into April this year, from March last year, would hinder its sales for the month. At the time, the company reaffirmed its full-year forecast. But the company also warned that first-quarter gross margins will be lower than last year, due in part to the rough winter in much of the country and high inventory levels.

Gap's shares rose nearly 2 percent, or 63 cents, to close at \$39 Wednesday. □



# IBM posts lower 1Q earnings on hardware slump

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**

**AP Technology Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — IBM's first-quarter earnings fell and revenue came in below Wall Street's expectations amid an ongoing decline in its hardware business, one that was exasperated by weaker demand in China and emerging markets. IBM Corp. said Wednesday that it earned \$2.38 billion, or \$2.29 per share, in the January-March period.

That's down 21 percent from \$3.03 billion, or \$2.70 per share, a year earlier. Excluding an \$870 million charge for reorganizing its work force and other one-time items, IBM's earnings were \$2.54 per share in the latest quarter, matching analysts' expectations. Revenue fell 4 percent to \$22.5 billion, below the \$22.9 billion that analysts polled by FactSet had expected. It's the eighth consecutive

quarter of revenue decline. The biggest drop was in its systems and technology unit, or hardware, where revenue tumbled 23 percent to \$2.39 billion from \$3.11 billion. "Hardware was a lot worse than I thought," said Daniel Morgan, a Synovus Trust portfolio manager who focuses on technology. He was expecting a 12 percent decline and said IBM is "really getting hurt" by

the slowdown in China and emerging markets. Software, on the other hand, performed better than he had expected. IBM said revenue in this segment grew 2 percent to \$5.66 billion from \$5.57 billion. Morgan said he had expected a small decline of less than 1 percent. IBM laid off an undisclosed number of workers in the past year, though it has also made hires in other areas.

It ended 2013 with 431,212 employees, down less than 1 percent from the end of 2012. For the full year, IBM still expects adjusted earnings of at least \$18 per share. That's higher than estimates of \$17.88. Shares of Armonk, New York-based IBM dropped \$8.32, or 4.2 percent, to \$188.02 in extended trading after the results came out. The stock had closed at \$196.40. □

# Google's 1Q earnings disappoint as ad prices slip

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Google's first-quarter earnings growth faltered as the Internet company dealt with a persistent downturn in advertising prices while spending more money to hire employees and invest in daring ideas. The results announced Wednesday fell below analyst projections. Google's stock shed more than 5 percent, or \$30.94, to hit \$525.50 in extended trading after the results were released. Although it remains among the world's most profitable companies, Google Inc. is struggling to adjust to a shift away from desktop and laptop computers to smartphones and tablets. The upheaval is lowering Google's ad rates because marketers aren't as willing to pay as much to pitch consumers who are squinting at the smaller screens on mobile devices. Google's average rates for ads appearing alongside its search results fell 9 percent from last year. It marked the 10th consecutive quarter that

the company's "cost-per-click" has declined from the previous year. The numbers for the opening three months of the

tending a streak of uninterrupted losses since Google bought the company for \$12.4 billion nearly two years ago.

reflect a doubling of the company's outstanding stock. Google earned \$3.45 billion, or \$5.04 per share, in

share. That figure missed the average analyst target of \$6.36 per share, according to FactSet. Revenue rose 19 percent



This photo shows the Google logo at a store in Hialeah, Fla. Google reports quarterly financial results after the market close on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

year include Google's troubled Motorola Mobility cellphone subsidiary, which the company is in the process of selling to Lenovo Group for \$2.9 billion. Motorola lost \$198 million in the first quarter, ex-

The first-quarter results were further muddled by a recently completed stock split that created a new category of Class C shares that hold no voting power. The split cut Google's per share earnings in half to

the quarter. That was up 3 percent from \$3.3 billion, or \$4.97 per share, last year. If not for costs covering employee stock compensation and other one-time items, Google said it would have earned \$6.27 per

from last year to \$15.4 billion. After subtracting advertising commissions, Google's revenue stood at \$12.2 billion — about \$200 million below analyst projections. □

# Bank of America posts loss, hurt by legal charges

**The Associated Press**

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)** — Bank of America said Wednesday that it swung to a loss in the first quarter, hurt by \$6 billion in legal charges. The Charlotte, North Carolina, bank reported a loss applicable to common shareholders of \$514 mil-

lion, compared with a profit of \$1.11 billion a year earlier. The loss amounted to 5 cents a share. A year earlier, the bank earned 10 cents a share. Revenue totaled \$22.66 billion after stripping out an accounting change. That was down 3.8 per-

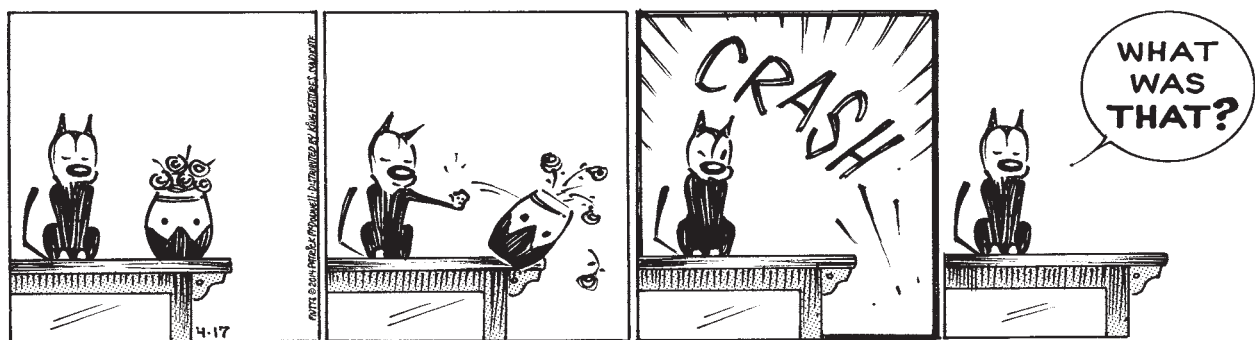
cent from last year. The \$6 billion legal expense stems from a previously announced settlement with the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and additional reserves for other mortgage-related matters. The bank also said it reached a settlement with

the Financial Guaranty Insurance Company, as well as separate settlements with The Bank of New York Mellon, over residential mortgage-backed securities. The bank continues to slim down as a result of the financial crisis. The bank had 238,600 full-time

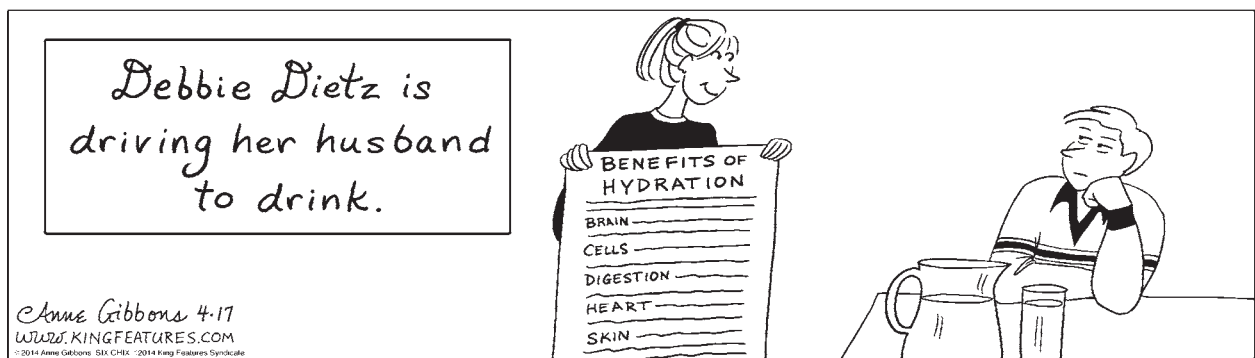
employees this quarter, down from 262,800 employees from a year ago. It reduced the number of bank branches to 5,095, a 5 percent less than a year earlier. Bank of America shares fell 35 cents, or 2 percent, to \$16.04 in midday Wednesday trading. □



Mutts



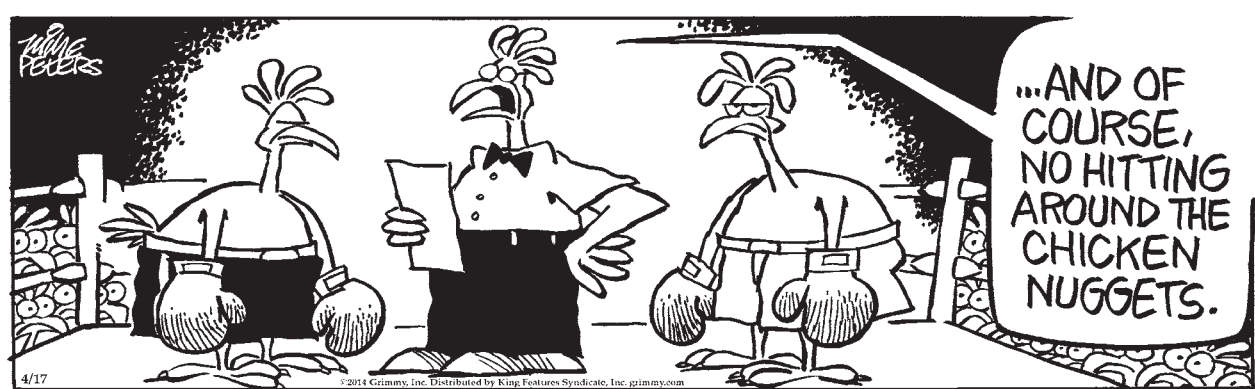
6 Chix



Blondie



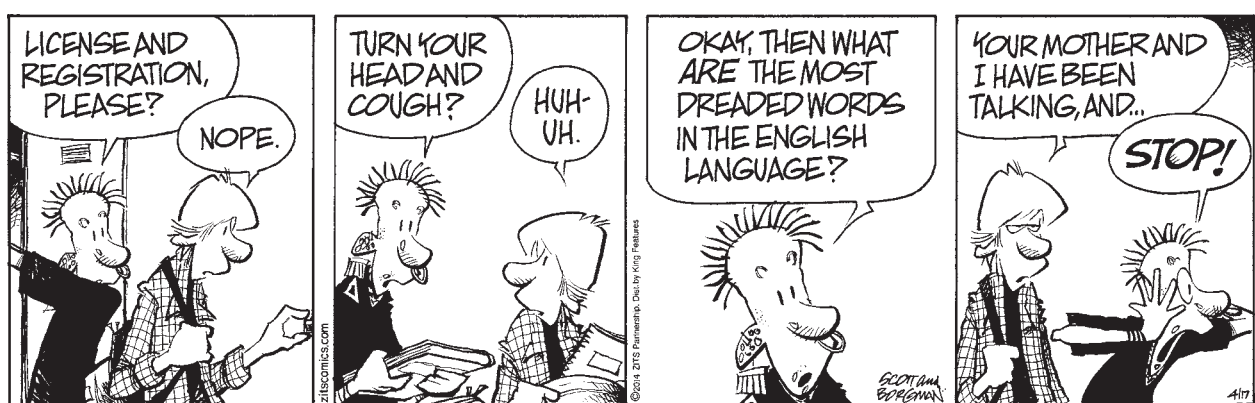
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3								5
	8	1	2		6	9	7	
				7				
	5						1	
7				4				2
	2						6	
				8				
	6	2	4		9	1	8	
9								4

Difficulty Level ★★

4/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

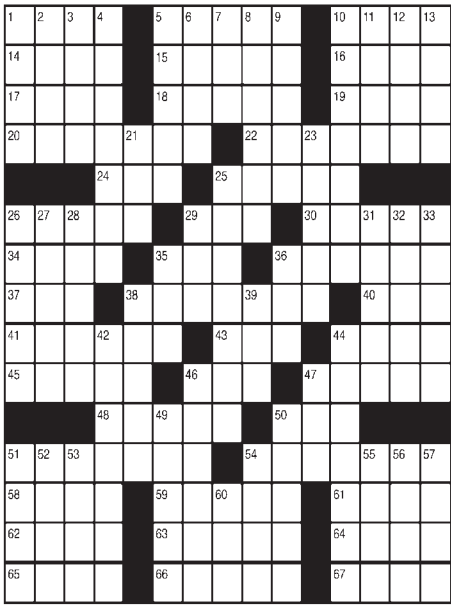
6	8	4	5	2	3	1	7	9
3	5	1	7	8	9	6	4	2
7	2	9	6	4	1	8	3	5
5	7	3	1	9	2	4	8	6
1	9	8	4	7	6	2	5	3
4	6	2	3	5	8	9	1	7
2	3	5	9	1	4	7	6	8
8	1	6	2	3	7	5	9	4
9	4	7	8	6	5	3	2	1

ACROSS

- Therefore
- Rub enough to make sore
- Storyline
- Late Kennedy family matriarch
- Clear; making sense
- Rant and \_\_; carry on
- Pinnacle
- Turn over a new leaf
- Dollar bills
- Bothers
- Disease
- BPOE member
- Slumber
- Singer \_\_ Page
- Word of mild surprise
- Upper room
- Astounds
- Cochlea's site
- Mentally unbalanced
- Mustang or Taurus
- Junior naval officers
- Unscrupulous fellow
- Gofe's task
- Shade tree
- Acceptable
- Raises, as kids
- However
- Carried
- Transports for school kids
- Taro root paste
- High-pitched cries
- Fell
- \_\_ as a pin
- Sea duck
- Mother \_\_; rich ore deposit
- Egg on
- Just right
- Breakfast order
- Coors, for one
- Whiplash sites
- Look for

DOWN

- Ensnares



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/17/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	G	E	S	E	D	G	E	S	P	A	M
A	L	A	M	O	R	U	E	D	T	O	B	E
N	E	V	E	R	A	N	E	W	E	L	L	A
E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	A	W	A	K	E
T	A	V	E	R	N	P	A	D	R	E		
A	R	E	Y	E	M	E	N	E	R	E	C	T
M	E	E	K	R	O	O	T	S	S	A	L	E
P	A	R	I	S	O	N	S	E	T	C	U	E
A	B	S	C	E	S	T	R	I	O			
B	R	A	H	M	S	M	I	S	C	H	I	E
H	A	V	E	E	V	I	L	K	E	N	Y	A
O	V	E	N	S	I	T	E	L	I	T	E	R
R	E	D	S	S	E	T	S	E	R	O	D	E

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4/17/14

- Follow as a result of
- Rudely ignore
- Gangster's gun
- In this place
- Dispute settler
- Become
- Character flaws
- Yellowish wood
- Next to
- Theater box
- Actor Hanks
- Rim
- Coil of yarn
- Writing table
- Knitter's stitches
- Nov.'s follower



## SNEAKERS

Continued from page 32

And even though many of them aren't old enough to drive, they have quickly learned the art of negotiating and have made friends they would never meet otherwise. "These kids make 10 to 12 transactions and before you know it, they have a \$2,000 pair of sneakers or a real nice collection of shoes," said Suraj Kaufman, the owner of two popular Nike footwear stores in New Jersey called Sneaker Room, in Bayonne and Jersey City. His stores have more than 66,000 followers on Facebook. "It's really amazing to see."

Teenagers know what draws top dollar, and are careful to walk like ducks so as not to crease new shoes they plan to sell quickly. At these events, experts check the soles, tongues and other marks to authenticate shoes. At the convention at the Hotel Pennsylvania, cleaning stations were also available.

While money or shoes change hands successfully on these Saturday afternoons, trades using Instagram and other social media have become so popular that a new shoe - ordered online with the purchase snapped via Instagram - may not have even arrived before it is resold by some enterprising youth. Online and off, business is brisk.

"I can see sneakers becoming even bigger than the baseball card scene," predicted George Rahor, who teams with his son, Steven, 14, in "Street Heat Sole & Style Expo" events, and who used to run baseball card shows in the 1990s.

Just like the aura around other highly prized collectors items, sometimes it's the deal that doesn't get made that generates the most buzz.

At the Manhattan event last month, one young vendor turned away \$98,000 in cash for his Nike Air Yeezy 2 "Red October" sneakers, designed by Kanye West and signed by the artist himself onstage at the Nas-sau Coliseum in February.

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### Red Hot Weeks Resales Renaissance Suites

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AMBULANCE	582-1234
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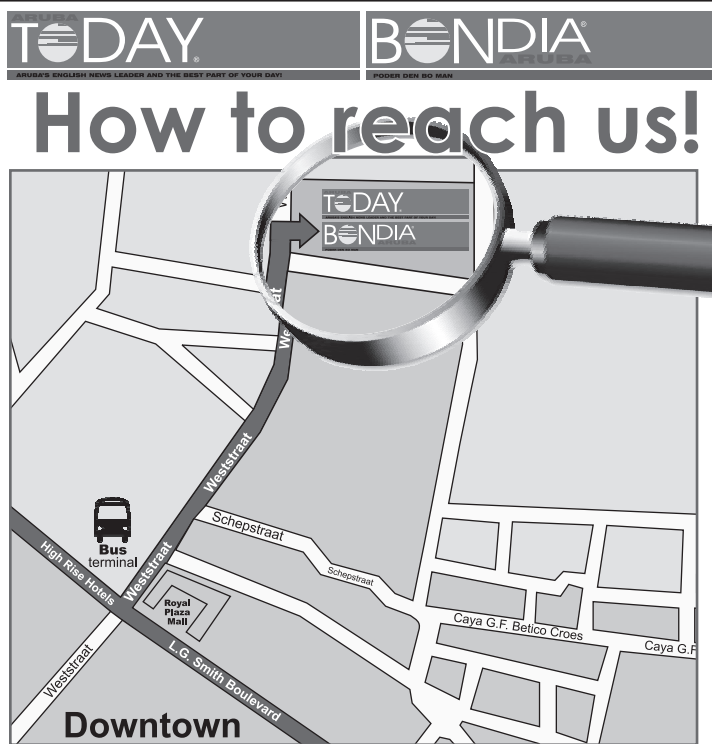
This property comes with an alarmsystem, hot water facility, modern kitchen with all appliances, 2 modern bathrooms, built in closets, 100 % fencing, landscaped garden with dripsystem and nice wooden gazebo. The total constructed area is appr. 200 m<sup>2</sup> / 2200 sf.

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# SpaceX will try again Fri. to launch station cargo

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — SpaceX is shooting for another launch attempt Friday to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

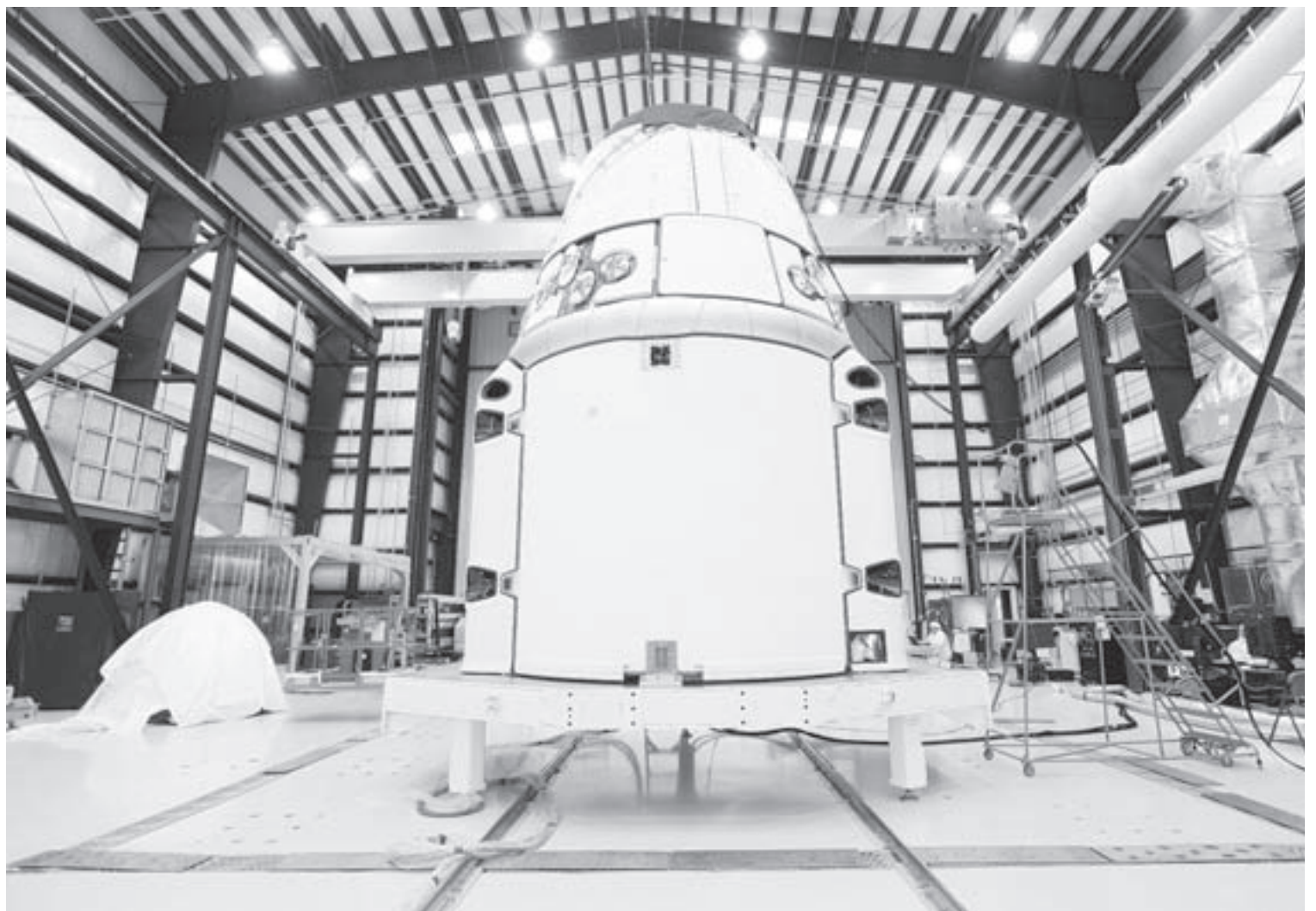
NASA confirmed the launch date Wednesday, two days after a last-minute rocket leak delayed the mission. Stormy weather, however, is forecast for Friday. Saturday is the backup launch date.

Mission Control has rescheduled urgent spacewalking repairs because of the new launch time. Two U.S. astronauts, Rick Mastracchio and Steven Swanson, had been aiming for a Tuesday spacewalk to replace a backup computer that failed late last week.

The prime computer has been working fine, but NASA wants to get a new backup installed outside the station as soon as possible. These computers control the pointing of the radiators and solar wings, among other things.

The spacewalk will be either Easter Sunday or next Wednesday, depending on when — or if — the cargo ship flies.

The Dragon contains more than 2 tons of supplies, including material that would prove useful for the repair, but is not essential. Former space station astronaut Christopher Cassidy, who's helping from Hous-



This Jan. 12, 2013 photo provided by NASA shows the SpaceX Dragon vehicle inside a processing hangar at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

ton, said the spacewalk job should be "pretty straightforward" and involve the manual turning of just three bolts on the computer box. "We anticipate it to go quickly, but as with anything in space ... you never know what's going to be thrown at you," said Cassidy, who served on the space station last year. A bad valve resulted in

Monday's helium leak in the unmanned Falcon rocket, SpaceX reported Wednesday. The valve is in the system used to separate the rocket's first stage. Although a backup valve was working properly and could have supported the flight, SpaceX followed its own policy of canceling a launch in the event of equipment problems such as this.

The faulty valve is being replaced, the private company said in a statement, and inspections are underway to see if anything else might be wrong.

NASA is eager to get these

supplies to the orbiting lab as soon as possible. The flight has been on hold since mid-March for various reasons. Much of the cargo is considered critical, including food, a new spacesuit and replacement parts for existing spacesuits.

The SpaceX Dragon and Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Cygnus cargo ship, which launches from Virginia, are NASA's prime means of shipment. Russia, Japan and Europe also make periodic deliveries.

NASA's space shuttles carried most of the resupply load until their retirement

in 2011; that's when the space agency turned to private industry to fill the gap. NASA is hoping private companies will do the same for launching astronauts in another few years. SpaceX is among the U.S. companies vying for that job. Until then, Americans will be forced to continue riding Russian rockets to and from the space station at steep cost.

If SpaceX isn't flying by Saturday, then Orbital Sciences will move to the front of the launch line, with a shipment in early May, officials said. That would push SpaceX into June.



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# Jay Z to bring Made in America music fest to L.A.

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Budweiser Made in America music festival is coming to Los Angeles, but who is performing and how the city will manage the two-day concert are still mysteries.

Jay Z and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti held a news conference Wednesday to announce the music festival, which is planned for Labor Day weekend and will be held simultaneously with one in Philadelphia. They did not announce the lineup of performers or address residents' concerns about the venue — a park in downtown Los Angeles that is crossed by several streets and partially surrounded by residential buildings.

The Made in America festival could draw 50,000 concertgoers, Garcetti said.

Jay Z wants to create a festival that brings together

diverse musical genres, where "all walks of life and all people can come, and it's in the city and it's not some far-off place that you can't get to — no disrespect to any other festivals," he said, taking an obvious dig at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, held in the desert more than two hours east of Los Angeles. Jay Z and wife Beyoncé each made surprise appearances at the event last weekend.

"Look how beautiful this park is," he said. "It's accessible to everyone."

The Los Angeles City Council has expressed concern that such a crowd could be disruptive for downtown residents.

County Supervisor Gloria Molina attempted to allay those worries, saying, "We know how to handle all of this."

"I'm sure every single LA resident is going to deal with a little bit of intrusion



Jay-Z, also known as Shawn Carter, left and Mayor Eric Garcetti clasp hands as they announce the Made in America Festival from the steps of City Hall on April 16, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

from time to time, because at the end of the day, LA is going to have tremendous benefit," she said, citing the event's anticipated economic infusion to the

city and its philanthropic element (some proceeds will benefit the United Way of Greater Los Angeles).

Molina also quoted a lyric from a Jay Z song: "Los An-

geles has 99 problems, but Jay Z and Made in America ain't one."

None of the politicians nor Jay Z took questions from the assembled press.

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"**



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**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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## All 'The View' co-hosts will salute Barbara Walters

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — ABC's "The View" will gather all 11 past and present co-hosts to salute Barbara Walters as she retires from daily television.

The network said Wednesday the first-ever reunion will air live on the May 15 episode of "The View," the day before Walters says goodbye as series co-host. Among those scheduled to appear are Meredith Vieira, Star Jones and Joy Behar. They will join current co-hosts Walters, Sherri Shepherd, Jenny McCarthy and Whoopi Goldberg. The 84-year-old Walters announced in 2013 that she would be retiring this year from regular TV appearances.



This April 14, 2014, photo provided by ABC shows co-host Barbara Walters on ABC's show "The View."

**Associated Press**

She'll remain an executive producer with the New York-based "The View" and will make special ABC News appearances as events warrant, the network has said. □

## Alicia Silverstone out with book 'Kind Mama'



This book cover image released by Rodale Books shows "The Kind Mama: A Simple Guide to Supercharged Fertility, a Radiant Pregnancy, a Sweeter Birth, and a Healthier, More Beautiful Beginning," by Alicia Silverstone.

**Associated Press**

### **ALICIA RANCILIO**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — She's famous as an actress for "Clueless." But Alicia Silverstone is also famous for her sometimes controversial ideas about mothering, and now she's put those philosophies down in writing in a just-published book, "The Kind Mama" (Rodale). Silverstone, 37, whose son Bear Blu is almost 3, says she had a wonderful pregnancy and wants other women to feel as good as she did. "I knew there was another way and it would be a more enjoyable, lovely way," said Silverstone in a recent interview. "So I started talking to doctors and medical experts, doing tons of research and found that there was so much support for this way. I wanted to make a guide for women so they could have that experience that they deserved to have."

As a vegan, Silverstone advocates a plant-based diet over meat and dairy. "When you take plants as your medicine and you use these nourishing miracles to

truly get well, everything's easier," she said, adding, "You get to have happy, healthy mommas and babies and when mommy feels good, everybody feels good. And when babies feel good they act really well. They're not uncomfortable and just struggling to process everything that's being done to them. They feel amazing and they thrive."

She also recommends a lying-in period after birth, where a mother can bond with her baby. Silverstone says she took 10 days after birth to stay in bed with her son. Silverstone has made a few headlines in the past for advocating practices that are out of the mainstream: After giving birth, she ate pills made from the placenta, and in 2012, she aired a video of herself practicing pre-mastication — pre-chewing food for her baby and spitting it in his mouth. "This is very naive," she said, laughing over the video's hoopla, "but I was surprised that anybody paid attention. I posted it online in my little community and in my

mind, in my little community, we're all minding our own business. ... I'm glad to hear that people really want to know what's going on at The Kind Life," which is the name of her website. One chapter of her book is devoted to "The Family Bed," having babies sleep in the same bed with parents, which Silverstone says offers "many benefits."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, however, advises against co-sleeping because of the risk of babies accidentally being suffocated by a sleeping adult. Milwaukee recently launched a public education campaign against the practice after 12 babies died in what officials deemed "unsafe sleeping conditions."

Silverstone is aware of her critics on various issues, and addresses them throughout the book in an "it's cool if others disagree" kind of way. "Everything that's in the book is there to show you why you might want to consider it but never to say you have to choose it, always just to give you information and show you that if you don't choose that, that's totally fine," she said. Silverstone also says that what women eat in pregnancy "sets up the taste buds for your children's lives ... Not that those things can't be broken or changed, but you're certainly setting a great foundation for them when you're eating healing, natural foods." She added, "Once they're old enough and they start seeing these other things, you've built the foundation."

Bear Blu, she says, "loves tofu, beans and green vegetables," and when he's tempted by what she considers to be unhealthy food, she has a secret weapon. "Blueberries are a miracle," she laughed, adding, "It's the easiest thing to distract them from anything. It's candy. So if they never know candy and they only know blueberries, isn't that a great thing?" □



In this April 27, 2004 file photo, author E.L. Doctorow smiles during an interview in his office at New York University.

**Associated Press**

## EL Doctorow to receive Library of Congress Prize

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Novelist E.L. Doctorow will be honored with the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington made the announcement Wednesday.

Billington said each of Doctorow's books is a "vivid canvas" filled with "color and drama." He likens Doctorow to Charles Dickens. Doctorow says novelists live with self-

doubt. He says the honor confers "a blessed moment of peace and resolution." Works from his five-decade career include "Ragtime," "World's Fair," "Billy Bathgate," "The March" and his current book, "Andrew's Brain."

The Bronx-born novelist majored in philosophy at Kenyon College in Ohio. The award will be presented Aug. 30 in Washington. □



## Diversity and Dishonesty



ROSS DOUTHAT  
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Earlier this year, a column by a Harvard undergraduate named Sandra Y.L. Korn briefly achieved escape velocity from the Ivy League bubble, thanks to its daring view of how universities should approach academic freedom.

Korn proposed that such freedom was dated and destructive and that a doctrine of "academic justice" should prevail instead. No more, she wrote, should Harvard permit its faculty to engage in "research promoting or justifying oppression" or produce work tainted by "racism, sexism, and heterosexism." Instead, academic culture should conform to left-wing ideas of the good, beautiful and true, and decline as a matter of principle "to put up with research that counters our goals."

No higher-up at Harvard endorsed her argument, of course. But its honesty of purpose made an instructive contrast to the institutional statements put out in the immediate aftermath of two recent controversies - the resignation of the Mozilla Foundation's CEO, Brendan Eich, and the withdrawal, by Brandeis University, of the honorary degree it had promised to the human rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

In both cases, Mozilla and Brandeis, there was a striking difference between the clarity of what had actually happened and the evasiveness of the official responses to the events. Eich stepped down rather than recant his past support for the view that one man and one woman makes a marriage; Hirsi Ali's invitation was withdrawn because of her sweeping criticisms of Islamic culture. But neither the phrase "marriage" nor the word "Islam" appeared in the initial statements Mozilla and Brandeis released.

Instead, the Mozilla statement rambled in the language of inclusion: "Our organizational culture reflects diversity and inclusiveness. ... Our culture of openness extends to encouraging staff and community to share their beliefs and opinions. ..."

The statement on Hirsi Ali was slightly more direct, saying that "her past statements ... are inconsistent with Brandeis University's core values." But it never specified what those statements or those values might be - and then it fell back, too, on pieties about diversity: "In the spirit of free expression that has defined Brandeis University throughout its history, Ms. Hirsi Ali is welcome to join us on campus in the future to engage in a dialogue about these important issues."

What both cases illustrate, with their fuzzy rhetoric masking ideological pressure, is a serious moral defect at the heart of elite culture in America.

The defect, crucially, is not this culture's bias against social conservatives, nor its discomfort with stinging attacks on non-Western religions. Rather, it's the refusal to admit - to others, and to itself - that these biases fundamentally trump the commitment to "free expression" or "diversity" affirmed in mission statements and news releases. This refusal, this self-deception, means that we have far too many powerful communities (corporate, academic, journalistic) that are simultaneously dogmatic and dishonest about it - that promise diversity but only as the left defines it, that fill their ranks with ideologues and then claim to stand athwart bias and misinformation, that speak the language of pluralism while presiding over communities that resemble the beautiful ideal of Sandra Y.L. Korn.

Harvard itself is a perfect example of this pattern: As Patrick Deneen of Notre Dame pointed out when the column was making waves, Korn could only come up with one contemporary example of a Harvardian voice that ought to be silenced - "a single conservative octogenarian," the political philosophy professor Harvey Mansfield. Her call for censorship, Deneen concluded, "is at this point almost wholly unnecessary, since there are nearly no conservatives to be found at Harvard."

I am (or try to be) a partisan of pluralism, which requires respecting Mozilla's right to have a CEO whose politics fit the climate of Silicon Valley, and Brandeis' right to rescind degrees as it sees fit, and Harvard's freedom to be essentially a two-worldview community, with a campus shared uneasily by progressives and corporate neoliberals, and a small corner reserved for token reactionary cranks.

But this respect is difficult to maintain when these institutions will not admit that this is what is going on. Instead, we have the pretense of universality - the insistence that the post-Eich Mozilla is open to all ideas, the invocations of the "spirit of free expression" from a school that's kicking a controversial speaker off the stage.

And with the pretense, increasingly, comes a dismissive attitude toward those institutions - mostly religious - that do acknowledge their own dogmas and commitments and ask for the freedom to embody them and live them out.

It would be a far, far better thing if Harvard and Brandeis and Mozilla would simply say, explicitly, that they are as ideologically progressive as Notre Dame is Catholic or BYU is Mormon or Chick-fil-A is evangelical, and that they intend to run their institution according to those lights. I can live with the progressivism. It's the lying that gets toxic. □



## A Wit for All Seasons



MAUREEN DOWD  
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I don't remember much about being on Stephen Colbert's show. It all passed in a blur of fear.

I remember him coming into the makeup room to remind me that he was going to be in character as a jerk.

I remember that he held up my book about gender and asked if it was "soft-core porn."

I remember he asked me if I wanted to hold his Peabody and I told him I did, so he jumped up to grab the TV award from the mantel.

The experience reminded me of a 1937 musical called "A Damsel in Distress," where Fred Astaire guided Joan Fontaine, clearly not a dancer, around a lawn, soaring for both of them.

Colbert was as quicksilver with his wit as Fred was with his feet. And like Astaire's more talented partner Ginger Rogers, who had to dance backward and in heels, Colbert was doing two things at once that were very hard. He was dazzling as a satirist and improv comedian while mimicking a buffoonish right-wing broadcaster.

Jon Stewart once described the level of difficulty to me this way: "It's as though you're doing your show in Portuguese."

The reason "The Colbert Report" worked, Stewart said, when I interviewed the two comics for Rolling Stone in 2006, was that Colbert could act like an obnoxious egoist, but his "basic decency can't be hidden."

Colbert is witty and a good interrogator without being twisted, as Johnny Carson was.

He's inventive, like the comic genius he will replace, but not tortured like David Letterman.

In person, Colbert is a nice guy, but not as monologue-maniacal as Jay Leno. Colbert has lived the life of a suburban soccer dad and Catholic Church-going Sunday school teacher in Montclair, N.J., with a beautiful wife he's nuts about, Evie McGee, and three kids.

He's not an ingratiating boy next door, like Jimmy Fallon, or a scorchingly candid curmudgeon, like Letterman.

No one, including the CBS president, Les Moonves, and the host himself, is sure what his new show will be like because we've so rarely seen Colbert when he wasn't playing a character.

And it's a sad double blow, after all. It's not only Letterman who's retiring, but the blowhard doppelgänger of Colbert.

Carson was the Walter Lippmann of comedy, wielding enormous influence over the reputations of politicians he mocked. Stewart and Colbert took it a step further. They became Murrow and Cronkite for a generation of young viewers. It was a measure of how seriously Washington viewed Colbert that in 2007, Rahm Emanuel, then the Democratic Caucus chairman, told freshman Democrats to stay off Colbert's show. And Colbert has to be the only person who testified before Congress as a bit.

Rush Limbaugh and some other conservatives bristled at news that Colbert was moving to the more mainstream network platform; they know he can be brilliantly effective about the absurdity and doublespeak of politics.

"CBS has just declared war on the heartland of America," Limbaugh said.

Colbert said in the Rolling Stone interview that his agenda was humor, not social change, noting: "Peter Cook was once asked if he thought that satire

had a political effect. He said, 'Absolutely, the greatest satire of the 20th century was the Weimar cabaret, and they stopped Hitler in his tracks.'"

Except for supporting JFK, Colbert's parents were not very political or liberal. Colbert kept a Nixon poster above his office desk. "Nixon was the last liberal president," he told me. "He supported women's rights, the environment, ending the draft, youth involvement, and now he's the boogeyman?"

After his appearance at the White House Correspondents Dinner in 2006, where he sliced W. so surgically that the speech, which fell flat in the room, went viral on liberal websites, Colbert looked shaken.

"I didn't want to be subversive," he told me. "I just wanted to be funny." He said he was not trying to throw a Molotov cocktail, as a critic charged. He agreed with one of his writers, who told him, "You threw a bottle of grape soda that happened to have a lit rag in the neck, and the room was soaked with gasoline." He describes himself as "an omnivore," who loves everything from "A Man for All Seasons" to "Jackass," from hip-hop to Ovid in the original Latin. He had 10 older siblings. But after his father and the two brothers closest to him in age died in a plane crash when he was 10 and the older kids went off to college, he said, he was "pretty much left to himself, with a lot of books."

He said he loved the "strange, sad poetry" of a song called "Holland 1945" by an indie band from Athens, Ga., called Neutral Milk Hotel and sent me the lyrics, which included this heartbreaking bit:

"But now we must pick up every piece

Of the life we used to love  
Just to keep ourselves

At least enough to carry on. . . .

And here is the room where your brothers were born  
Indentations in the sheets  
Where their bodies once moved  
but don't move anymore." □



# A Thriving Market Where Air Jordans Are Blue Chips



Vendors and attendees haggle over sneakers at the Sole Xchange fair, at the Penn Plaza Pavilion in New York. Thousands of "sneakerheads," often teenagers, have formed a thriving subculture devoted to collecting and trading sneakers at events like this one, where traders can recite resale values and the debut dates for new pairs as easily as other sports fans can spit out basketball statistics.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

**GRANT GLICKSON**

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With sneakers slung around their shoulders and pockets full of cash, young boys huddle in hotel ballrooms and high school gyms, shouting and bartering as though they belong on a trading room floor.

"What do you want for them?" John Leonardo asked at one recent event in New Jersey.

"What's your offer?" someone hollered back.

In a flurry of transactions, John, who is only 13 years old, bought, sold or exchanged 20 pairs of designer basketball sneakers and walked away with four more pairs than he started with. His collection's retail value climbed to \$1,155 from \$340.

John, an eighth-grade student from Manalapan, N.J., and thousands of other teenage "sneakerheads" have formed a thriving subculture using Instagram, Facebook and weekend conventions to spot, sell and trade coveted, sometimes limited edition pairs of designer basketball shoes.

Teenagers who have grown up with eBay and the Internet have learned the art of trading up, and sometimes earning a profit in the process.

Jake White, 14, of Freehold, N.J., has 81 pairs in his collection, helped a lot by gifts from his parents. He estimates they've spent \$11,000 on shoes and could probably make \$20,000 if he sold them all. "I know just about everything about sneakers," he said. "I only wear them in the summer because I don't want to take down the value of them."

While the lucrative retail business for sneakers - and the exclusive lines that attract overnight campers outside elite stores - have existed for decades now, this teenager-filled marketplace (or high-end sneaker exchange) has spread from city to city in the last few years. It's the latest phase of the sports footwear craze that began 30 years or so ago when the National Basketball Association

forbade Michael Jordan, then a rookie, from wearing his Nike Air Jordan 1's on the court because they didn't meet the dress code.

To this day, no player's line comes close to Nike's Jordan-branded footwear, sales of which reached \$2.5 billion last year. Overall, basketball sneaker sales made up \$4.5 billion of the total \$21 billion athletic shoe business, according to Princeton Retail Analysis.

And the teenage traders attending these conventions know the market, reciting resale values, the buzz of a hot trade and the debut dates for new pairs as easily as others can spit out baseball stats.

Joseph Diorio, 34, the owner of SoleXChange, hosts and sponsors trading events in major cities like New York and Miami and likens the sneaker trading craze to the comic book business.

At a convention Diorio sponsored last month in the Hotel Pennsylvania in Manhattan, hundreds of students carted shoe boxes in duffel bags and backpacks into a 40,000-square-foot space. At many of these events, held nearly weekly around the country, those who pay a \$25 entry fee to enter as traders can lug in a maximum of five pairs to barter or sell and then generally earn between \$300 and \$800, depending on the venue. To get display space like a real vendor, attendees can pay about \$125 for a three-person table - and average a share of \$2,000 to \$4,000 a day, with highs reaching nearly \$20,000.

The mostly male, mostly teenage hawkers at these conventions may have little in common but their envy for other collectors' wares.

They wander up and down aisles holding sneakers high on top of boxes carried aloft like pizza pies, or set up shop on the floor with a stacked tower of shoes on display.

**Continued on page 27**

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